



HISTORY OF
BALTISTAN
(Tibet Minor)

A. R. Khan

History of Baltistan

(Tibet Minor)

**Translated by
A.R. Khan**

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Author : ***Hashmat Ullah Khan***

Translated By : ***A.R.Khan***

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HISTORY OF BALTISTAN (TIBET MINOR)

Preface

No book was available to me for studying History of Tibet Minor i.e; Baltistan. Therefore, I had to depend upon its national songs, common traditions and archeological sites. Besides, the histories of foreign countries, with references about this country have been recorded after their authenticity. At other places, there is complete Photocopy of events, which add to their further explanation.

This part has seven chapters. The first chapter contains Early conditions and history of Askardoo's Makpoon dynasty. Randov and Astore are the branches of the same dynasty. But no remarkable event has been recorded anywhere, therefore, they are confined to their genealogical order only. Likewise, the Kartaksha dynasty is also a branch of Makpoon dynasty. But, since, the history of that part of country is different, therefore, I have explained it in chapter second. Since Toltee is branch of Kartaksha, its genealogical order is included in Karkatsha part.

Adam Khan, Shah Murad, Sher Shah and Rafiq Khan's achievements have been obtained from a Persian poetry book named "Shagr Nama". It has been written in poetic pattern like "Shahnama" and "Sikandarnama". There is no systematic record of events. However, the book is a rich source of historical events. Therefore, I have added its summary in my book. The events related to war during that period is amply evident. I received two photographs, which have been appended at the appropriate place for the readers interest.

The adjustment of Rajgan era have been made as per the historical records of foreign countries. But before Gotah Chosangay, it has been calculated at the rate of thirty years for one generation upto Ibraheem Makpoon's time. This scale was

entertained on the basis of past events of this country, which on average, corresponds with the date. Likewise the period of Kartaksha in second chapter has been maintained mathematically and wherever, there is any reference, the same has been correlated with it.

In third chapter, there is description about Amacha Shagr dynasty. Its earlier conditions are based upon traditions. The genealogical order of this dynasty upto 18th generation is not credible in my view. But downwards from 19th generation, is authentic. The fixatation of Rajgan period, upto Ghazi thum has been correlated with history of other dynasties of Baltistan. Ahead of Ghazi Thum, it seems useless and has been dropped. In this dynasty, Imam Qulee Khan had been a great Raja, whose achievements have been copied from the book Shagr Nama and explained in Askardo, because they are mostly related with the same dynasty. In this context the picture of royal darbar of Imam Qulee Khan is also appended.

The fourth chapter is related to the history of Yugbo Khaplu dynasty. There is no recorded history and the whole recordings are based on traditions and archeological, sites, for which I had left no stone unturned. The Genealogical order, which I have received for this Rajgan dynasty, the present Raja Khaploo's Genealogy is related to Alexandar the Great for seventeenth generation. I think it to be utopian as Genealogy of Rajgan Hunza. They have also correlated their Genealogy with Alexandar the Great. Which in no way corresponds to historical events. Therefore, I set up a separate Genealogical order of this dynasty. Though I have made thorough research of it, but from initial to 28th generation, I don't believe it more credible, but ahead of it, is based upon research and corresponds to date.

The different Rajgan eara's were fixed in relation with history of other dynasties and had been authenticated by foreign histories. The archeological sites have also helped in this behalf.

Hatim Khan I, has been a great Raja of this dynasty, who laid foundation of Sarlang and Thoor state and had performed remarkable activities.

The fifth, sixth and seventh chapters are included as Miscellaneous, for which only people having special interest are attracted. In case of state Administration, comparison has been made between past and present Govts. Which solely depends upon oral statements of people. I have not received any recorded proof. About Baltistan rulers, discussion has been made with regard to their developments. The propagation of Islam, is an important problem for this country, therefore I have recorded the historical events in this chapter and Gilgit is also included in it. Because, in this context that country is related to Baltistan upto certain limit.

The schedule of census report of this area has been appended with it. I have spent many years in research. I often visited every area and many villages. Many people assisted me and were associated with me, but Mirza Mohammad Khan Rais Pushkum and Molvi Mohammad Hussain Resident of Jeelam, extended valuable help to me in this behalf. It was due to their efforts and endeavours that I have been able to know about national songs and traditions. I offer my sincere gratitude to them. Munshi Mohammad Youqub Khan of Jammu, also provided me useful information for which I am highly indebted to him.

Besides above, I have consulted following publications of distinguished authors, for whom I offer my sincere thanks.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Tarikh-e-Hindustan | Zakaullah |
| 2. Tarikh-Azam | Persian |
| 3. Tohfata-al-ahbab | Persian |
| 4. Tarikh Rashidi (Persian) | Mirza Haider |
| | Gorgan (Manuscript) |

5. Mukamal Tarikh-e-Kashmir Mohammad-Din-Fauq
6. Shagr Nama Persian Poetry (Manuscript)
7. Risala Persian Raja Ali Sher Khan
8. Risala Persian Kartaksha- Manuscript)
 Syed Mohammad Abass Resident of Chhorka
 (Manuscript)
9. Various English Publications.

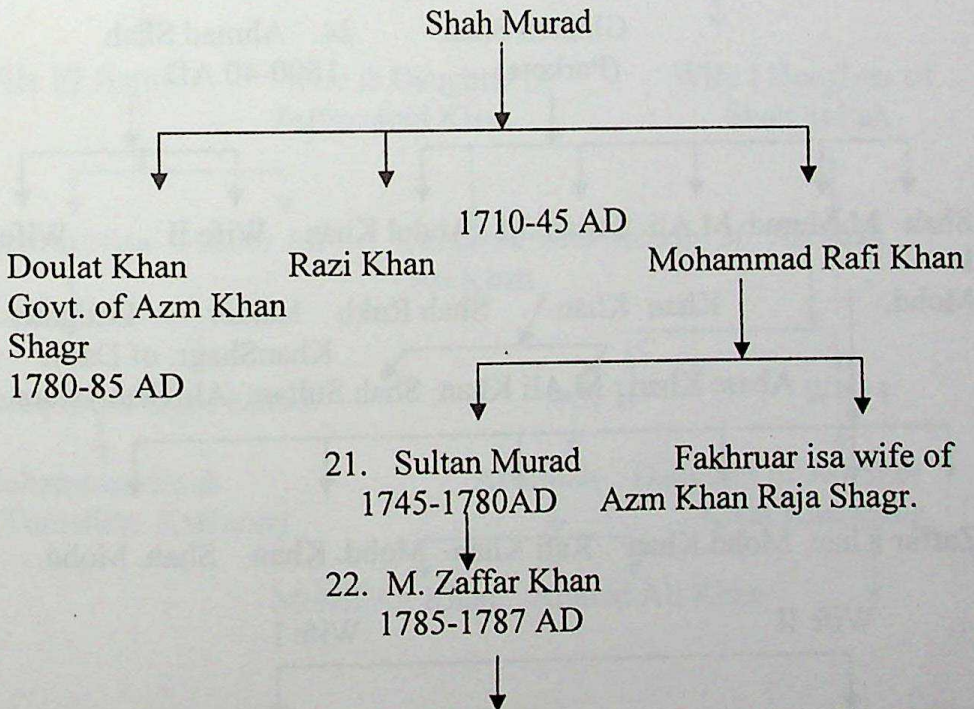
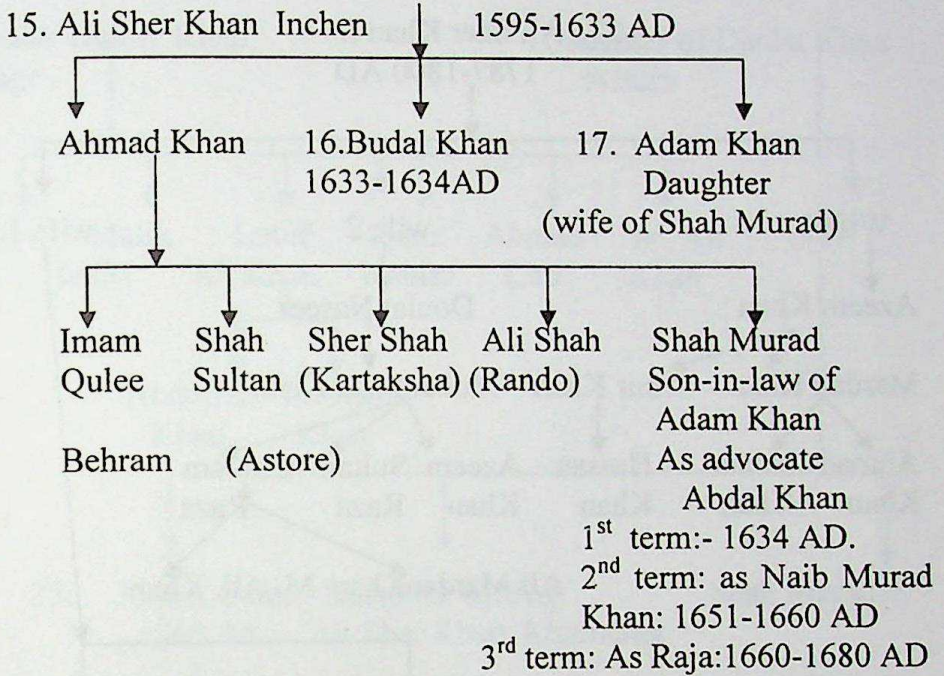
Hashmatullah Khan
Gola Ganj-Lucknow

Sept. 7th 1936 AD.

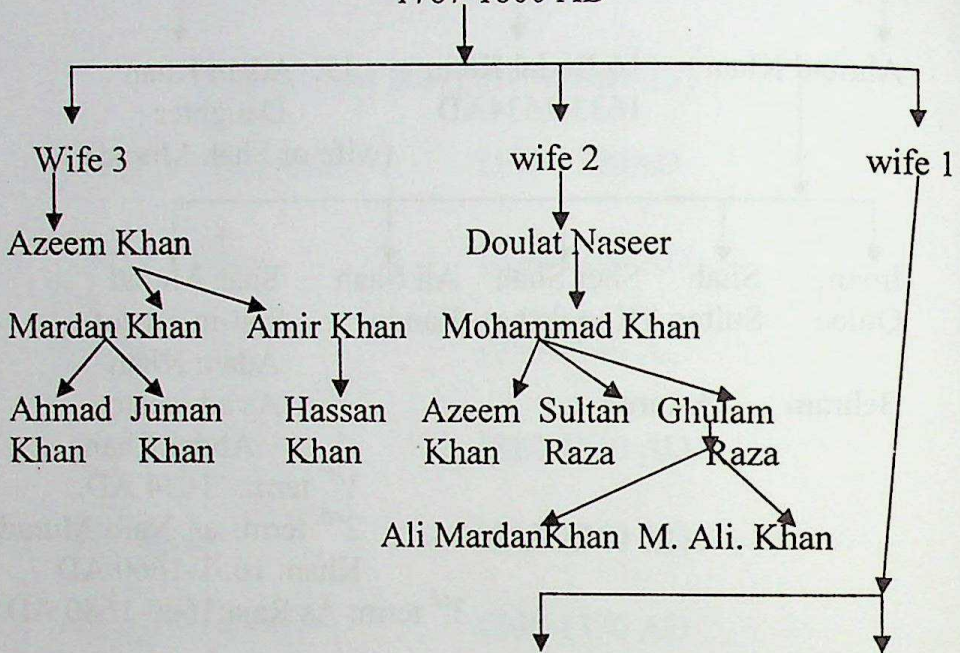
Genealogical Order

(Makpoon Rajgan Askardo)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Ibraheem (Makpoon), | 1190-1220AD |
| ↓ | |
| 2. Astak Sangay | 1220-1250 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 3. Zak Sangay | 1250-1280 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 4. Brooke Sangay | 1280-1310 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 5. Seak Sangay | 1310-1340 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 6. Thum Goree Tham | 1340-1370 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 7. Sagoree Thum | 1370-1400 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 8. Khokhor Sangay | 1400-1437 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 9. Gota Cho Sangay | 1437-1464 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 10. Behram Cho | 1464-1490 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 11. Bokha | 1490-1515AD |
| ↓ | |
| 12. Sher Shah | 1515-1540 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 13. Ali Khan | 1540-1565 AD |
| ↓ | |
| 14. Ghazi Mir | 1565-1595 AD |

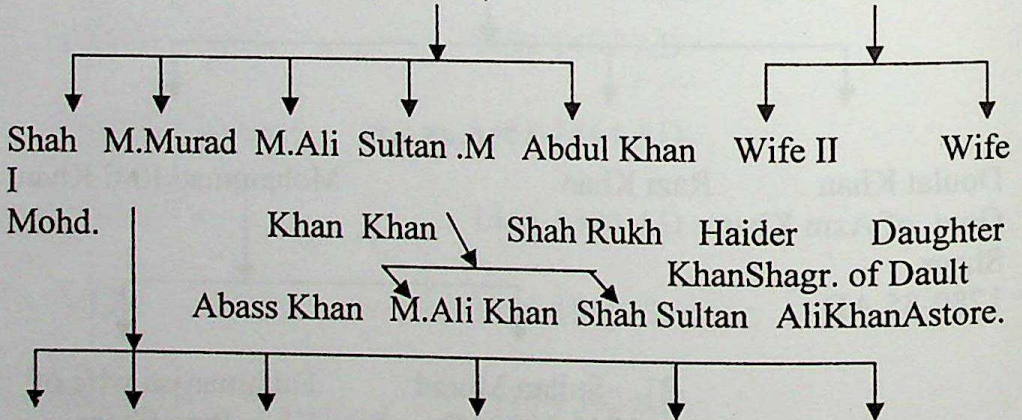


23. Ali Sher Khan II
1787-1800 AD



Ghulam Shah
(Parkote)

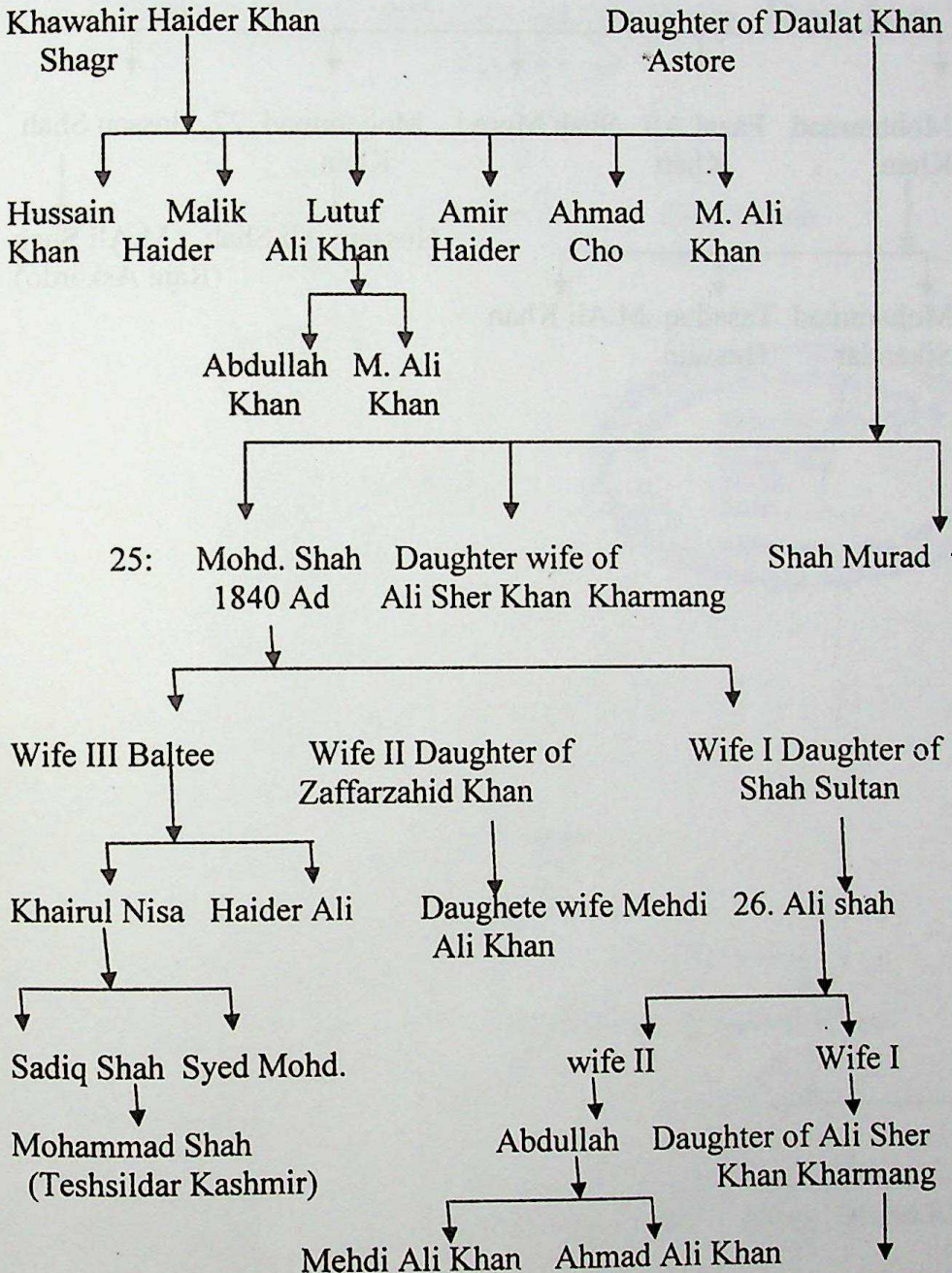
24. Ahmad Shah
1800-40 AD

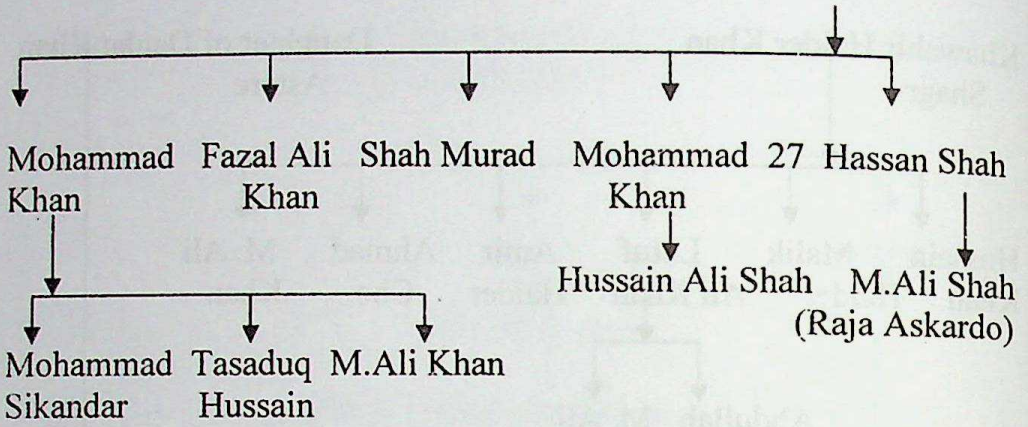


Zaffar Khan Mohd. Khan Rafi Khan Mohd. Khan Shah. Mohd.

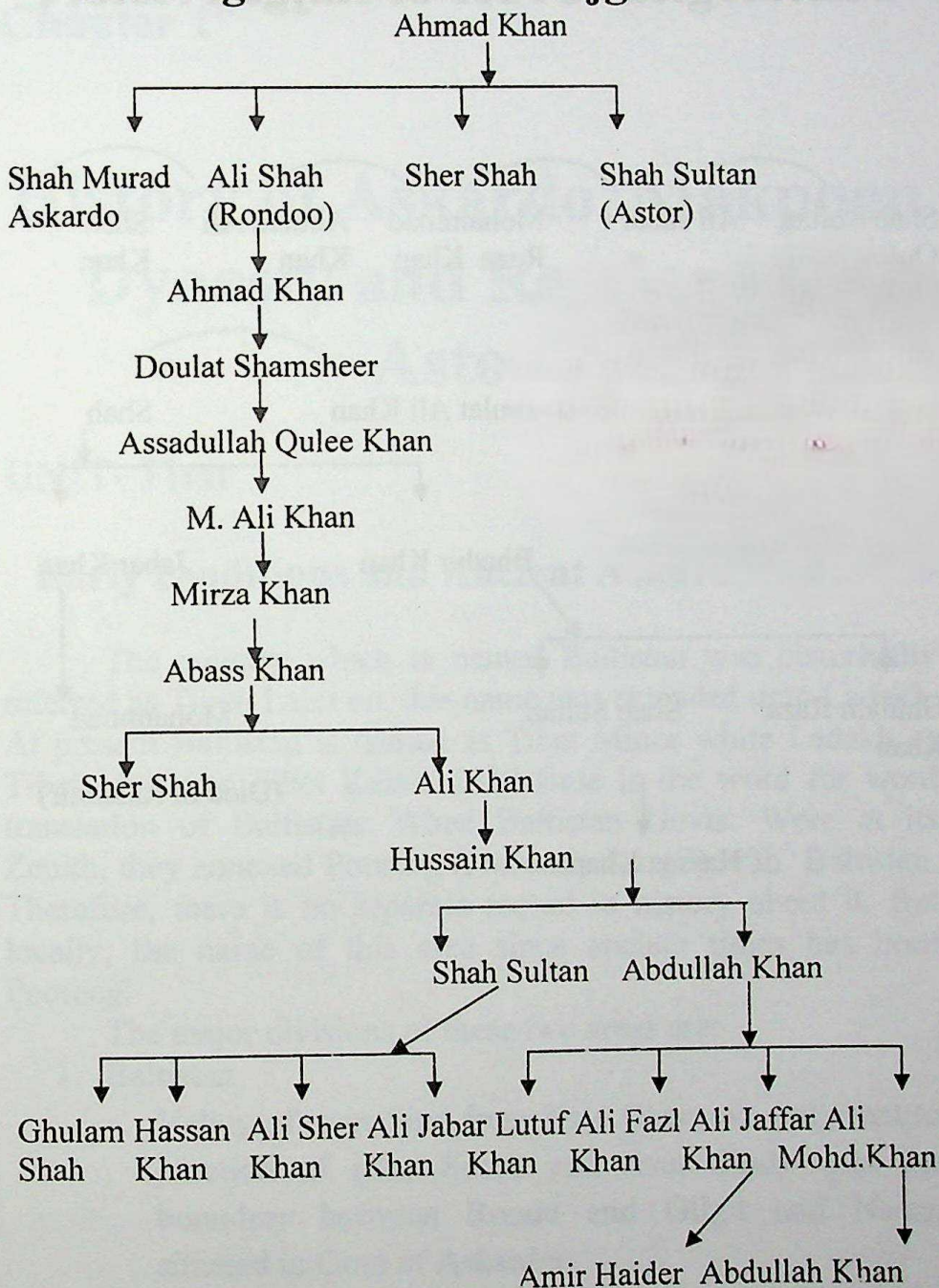
Wife II

Wife I

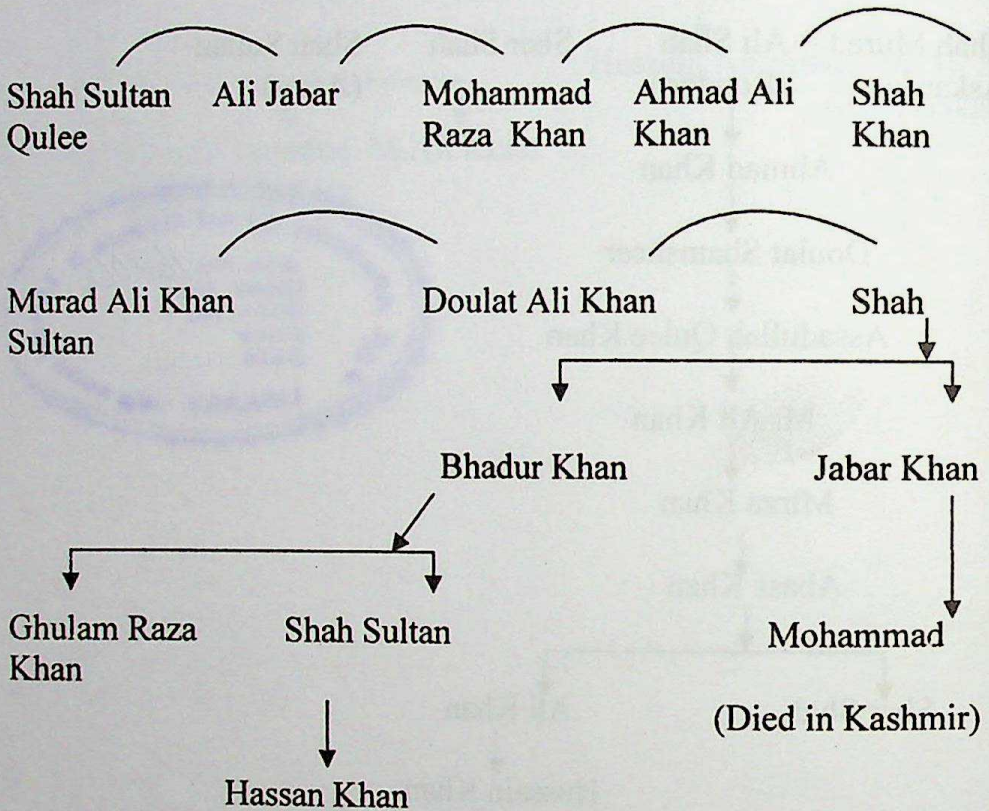




Genealogical Order of Rajgan Rondoo



Genealogical Order of Rajgan Astore



Chapter 1st

History of Askardo, Makpoon Dynasty and Rondoo and Astore

UNIT- First

Early conditions and Ancient Askardo Rajgan

The country which is named Baltistan was historically referred as Tibet. Later on, this name was extended upto Ladakh. At present Baltistan is named as Tibet Minor while Ladakh as Tibet Major or Tibet Kalan. Balti Bole is the word for word translation of Baltistan. When Baltistan Govts. Were at its Zenith, they annexed Pooreeg (Presently Kargil) with Baltistan. Therefore, there is no separate record in history about it, But locally, the name of this area since ancient times has been Pooreeg.

The major divisions of these two areas are:

1. Baltistan

- a. Valley of river Sind from Nala Ghargova (adjacent to junction of river Sooru and river Sind) upto the boundary between Rondoo and Gilgit and Nalas, situated in Govt of Askardoo.

- b. Valley of river Shyuk from boundary Nobra (Ladakh) upto Junction of river Shyuk and river Sind and Nalas, in Govt. of Khaploo.
 - c. Valley of river Shagr and various Tributories situated in Govt. of Shagr.
2. Pooreeg.
- a. Valley of river Sooru from Zanskar boundary upto Pushkum boundary situated under Govt. of Sooru & Kartasy.
 - b. Valley of river Drass situated under Govt. of Drass; valley of river Shangu and Shagr, situated under Govt. Of Shagr & Shango.
(Dard People)
 - c. Valley of Nala Wakha including lower part of river Sooru situated under Govt. of Pushkum.
 - d. River Sooru on one side and Pushkum boundary on other side and valley of Sind upto Ladakh boundary from third side situated under Govt. of Soot.

The history of Pooreeg area has been recorded as separate part. This part is related with history of Baltistan only.

The beginning of settlement in Baltistan was started by those people of central Asia, who from time to time, entered from Gilgit via Sind river valley to Askardo or Via Hunza, Nagar, Pamir, Gilgit and Kashghar to Shagr and Khaploo or from Ladakh to Khaploo. In this unit, there shall be discussion about valley of river Sind of Govt. of Askardo.

To know about ancient period of history is very difficult. Whatever has been revealed through national anthems, traditions and archeological sites is as.

In ancient period, from Gilgit, the following persons alongwith their companions have entered in this area and have settled there.

1. Gayalo Shawl Boo settled Gayole.
2. Shakr Gayalpo settled Shagree, chonda and Biamankapo.
3. Keroasoon Cho settled Kharbo.
4. Barkmayurcho laid foundation of Bark Nek.
5. Lone Chey settled below Kachora in Sind river valley.

Their economy was tribal in nature. A part of land developed by anyone belonged to him and established his Govt. there and continued to rule, for generations together. Gradually, due to ups and downs of time, the control of Shakr Gayalpoo dynasty established over all other dynasties except Honechey i.e; Rondoo and he began to realize taxes from them. The headquarters of their dynasty were at Shagree Kalan. Grndually the population of this village increased and Shagree Kalan became regular capital of this dynasty.

During period of settlement, it is said, that a mountain between Bagardoo and Kachora, below Askardo, at a distance of few miles above river Sind, cracked by which central part of river became leveled with two adjacent mountains, which blocked river water flow. A lake was formed on the upper side towards Khalsee and Kargil. The boat from Askardo Ghat was touching village Chondah, where it was tied with a rock which till date is famous by the name Chain Atdawa i.e; "The rock for tying boat" and the origin of village Chonda is related to it. The foot prints of that lake are still existent on river slope at many places, which led to decrease in population. But after some time, when water receded slowly, resettlement took place and such conditions continued for long.

Once it happened, that a girl, Shakree was the lone successor of Shagr Gayalpo dynasty. During that period, four persons were highly influential in darbar, i.e; Santano Tok; Satano Shy; Satano Kinaye and Satano Babore. They fought with one another for marrying with Shakree. Every one of them was interested to marry Shakree in their dynasty. During that period a Kashmiri young man, Ibraheem by name, came to Shagree. It was about 1190 AD- 1220 AD. There is no historical Proof about it. This man was very clever and intelligent. Within few days, he became famous in that country. Now all the four wazirs thought it to be useless to quarrel between themselves about marriage of Shakree. Shakree married with the Kashmiri Youngman and this way, the traveler from Kashmir assumed the reins of Govt. and was famous as Makgoon that is "Salar-e-Quam".

During that time, the Gayalo Shalbo dynasty Govt. with no issue to their last ruler, was achieved by Magpoon Shagree. Likewise, the Govt. of Korovasoon dynasty was achieved by Barqmayar dynasty and from Randoo to Shagree there was rule of only three dynasties. This arrangement continued for a pretty long time peacefully. After Ibraheem, from Khokar to Sangtay, there is no record for seven generations. Mathematically this period lasts from 1220-1437 AD. Later on, Gota Cho Sangay became Raja.

During Gota Cho Sangay's rule, 1437-1464 AS, a great revolution took place in Baltistan. During beginning of eight century Hijra, Islam spread in Kashmir due to Muslim Scholars especially Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer, Mir Syed Ali Hamdani. Afterwards, Hazrat Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh who was disciple of Hazrat Amir came to Baltistan as caliph and was instrumental in Preaching Islam in this country. His name is recorded in historical records of Kashmir, but there is no mention about his birth and death. One book which I obtained

from a Mulla, in Baltistan, records his death as 869 Hijra. On this basis, it may be possible that he might have visited this country in 840 or 850 Hijra. As tradition, at that time, Gota Cho Sangay in Askardo, Ghazi Thum in Shagr and Shah Azm in Khaplu were the rulers. Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh Preached Islam throughout country and took oath of allegiance on the name of Hazarat Amir-e-Kabeer Mir Syed Ali Hamdani ^{RA}. All inhabitants of the country embraced Islam one by one. Ghazi Thamb embraced Islam and named himself-Ghazi Mir Syed Shaib and laid foundations of Ambodak Mosque. At Khaplo, Shah Azam also embraced Islam at the hands of Hazrat Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh. The foundation of Chekchapan mosque were laid by Syed Shaib himself. This mosque has residential rooms as well and referred as "Khankah". It is not known about Gota Cho Sangay, whether he accepted Islam or not. But in Askardo, Islam spread due to strenuous efforts by Syed Noor Baksh. In Pooreeg the population is mostly Muslims. It is surmised that in Pooreeg, Syed Noor Baksh was instrumental in Preaching Islam. It is said, that this elderly man did not stay at Khaplu and via Nala Saltoru went to yarkand.

During Behram's time 1664-1690 AD, Lone Chay Aadit Cho, attacked Shagree from Rondu and captured a part of it. Chandan Giri was Behram's wazir. He advised Behram, that it is beyond our reach to defeat Aadit Cho. He shall be defeated intelligently. He digged a trench in Sandoos and covered its mouth with straw and leveled it with land surface. During war, Magpoon army retreated and moved towards the trench and moving away of trench, came towards other side and dispersed. Lone Chey Aadat Cho, Chased them on horseback and straightaway fell into trench. At that time, a man Shapoo Mohammad Ali killed Aadat Cho. After death of Lone Chey, his brother Chadda, who was also in the battlefield without confronting absconded alongwith army. Magpoon army chased

them upto Bisho but of no use. However, the area upto Bischo was annexed with Shagree Govt.

Bokha was son of Behram, who lost his father during his childhood. Due to this reason, Barqmayur dynasty occupied Shagree and killed all people of Magpoon dynasty. Bokha for some time living in the house of his foster father, who was famous as Malatum Zarpah and who declared Bokha as dumb. Later on, the Raja of Kharbokhar, who was hell bent to abolish Magpoon dynasty, was determined to do away with life of Bokha and called him in his darbar for death Penalty. He had committed a mistake, by allowing Behram's wazir, Gacha to continue as wazir. On observing that an innocent boy is being punished for no crime is being killed, Gacha advised Raja to leave dumb boy alive. What can he do? In this way, Bokha's life was saved. He upto eighteen years of age was recognized as dumb and was working as sphered in his foster father's home. During that period, one day as usual, he had gone for rearing cattle, that he slept on a big stone, famous as Budvenus, in front of his father's palace. It has been recorded, that on that day, Bokha had not brought his meal's alongwith. His foster mother, carrying meals for him went out in his search. When she reached upto this stone, she saw Bokha sleeping there and a snake was shading him. The woman on seeing it got frightened and cried by which Bokha woke up and snake disappeared. Bokha complained to his mother, that why shedisturbed him? I was enjoying a beautiful dream, that a crowd after donning royal robes carried me to sat on a thrown. The woman related this dream to his husband. The husband told his wife that the boy will definitely assume Govt. one day, therefore, he motivated wazir Gacha to favor him. Through him, the supporters of Behram were sympathetic to the boy. At last it was agreed, that Barqmoyarpa, may take his two brothers for hunting of Chakoor to Burdoo. For hunting, people were assembled to follow the

hunter, which would start from Bardo and last at Kazleeyole, where all people assemble and would enjoy meals, dance and singing. Wazir Gacha said, that during the celebrations he will perform sword dance and during dancing killed both brothers of Barqmayurpa. At that time all supporters of Bokha may recognize him as ruler and to declare it in the same congregation. Therefore, the same was followed. People carried Bokha from Qazleeyole in Pallki to Shagree. Seated on Budnees stone, people offered him gifts and presents. People said, that they have accepted this dumb man as their ruler, but how can he discharge the functions of Govt. on this occasion Bokha's foster father said to Bokha, "My son, do talk". Bokha began to talk and he was titled as Timzairpa i,e; Talking and Bokha was named as Barqmagpoon, i,e; Rocky Magpoon. After wards, the coronation ceremony lasted till Raja Ahmad Shah's time on the same rock.

Bokha-Founder of Askardo Govt. 1490-1515A.D.

Bokha alongwith his father's inheritance also controlled Barkmayur Pa's Govt. In this way, Haroon came under control of early dynasties of Shagr Gayalp's Govt. Bokha settled this habitation, which is now famous as Askardo. "Doo in Batle language is a low place between two mountains. The Askardoo town is situated at a lower place than Chonga Shagree. On its upper side towards Nala Sat which is at a higher attitude and Askardoo has been founded by Askar Gayalpo, the founding father of this dynasty.

Construction of Khaspochay

After settlement of Askardoo by Bokha, he shifted his residence to Shagree. On the north of Askardoo habitation, where

there is a hard rock he constructed a great fort, named Kharpochoy i.e; Big fort. It was approved as capital of Bokha. The rock on which fort is situated is surrounded from north and east by river Sind and from north-west, the perpendicular walls of rock has made it sound and strong. Between these walls, there is a narrow route for going to fort which is twisted due to rocky structure. In short, the fort is so strong by natural resources that it was impossible to attack it by simple guns. Therefore, it was regarded as insurmountable.

The habitation of Askardoo, was arranged by settlers of Kashmir & Chilas. Those people who had come from Kashmir during that period were called Doganipa and Kinapa. Gradually Population increased and it assumed shape of a town, though population dispersed throughout Mohallas. In short, Bokha, is the founder of united Govt. of Askardoo. The last Bodh Raja was Yapoon Choss, though during his grandfather, Gota Chosanga's time, Islam, spread throughout this country through Hazrat Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh, but it is not known, whether Gota Chosanga was influenced by Islam or not. It is a tradition, that Bokha's son. Sher Shah followed the faith of Meer Shams-u-deen Iraqi. It is an important event of Magpoon Bokha's era, that Meer Shams-u-deen Iraqi deported from Kharasan during rule of Mohammad Shah whose prime Minister was Syed Mohammad Behaqi entered Kashmir in 901 Hijra and with the help and assistance of Baba Ali Najar began to openly propagate Shiasm in Kashmir. When Syed Mohammad Prime Minister received this news, Mir Shams-u-deen Iraqi was forcibly deported from Kashmir to Askardoo.

Propagation of Shia Religion

On reaching Askardoo, Mir Shams Iraqi Presentling himself as calip of Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh, tried very hard

to propagate Shiaism. At this time, Bokha in Askardoo, Gazree in Shagr; Roy Behram in Khaplu and Jaib Cho in Pooreeg were rulers. People were at beck and call of Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh. Everywhere, Meer Shaib was received with great respect and honor and by this policy he was successful in spreading his religion. He lived in this country for five to six years. After martyrdom of Syed Mohammad Behaqee in Kashmir, Mir Shams Iraqi returned back to Kashmir in 908 Hijra.

Sher Shah 1515-1540 A.D.

After Magpoon Bokha, his son Sheer Shah succeeded him. He was follower of Mir Shams-u-deen Iraqi. Though, "Tarikh-Rashidee" mentions name of Roy Behram which in my opinion is Behram of Khaploo, but as per time period, Sher Shah should have been the Raja of Askardoo at that time. Since his fort was very strong, perhaps Sultan avoided to disturb him and returned back after making damages. Because, Mirza Haider has recorded, where there was strong fort or pass, was left over. Shagr, which has been named as capital of Baltistan, by Mirza Haider, has recorded, that Sultan conquered during first attack, but he has not written the name of Raja. As per the traditions of country. Abdullah Khan was Raja of Shagr at the time of invasion. As per Sher Shah, it has been recorded that he lived for a short period of life and after him his son Ali Khan, became Raja.

UNIT- SECOND

Rise of Govt. Magpoon Askardoo

Ali Shah 1540-1565 A.D.

The rise of Govt. Askardoo started from Ali Khans time, which achieved great heights during Ali Sher Khan Inchen and his grandsons Shah Murad, Sher Shah and Ali Shah's time. During Ali Khan's era, the conditions were disturbed due to mutual conflict between two Rani's. Disturbances also created due to invasion of Astor people on Shagr Shangoo. On this basis, Ali Khan got, opportunity to interfere in those areas. A branch of vindictive nation was settled at Gon and a second branch in Shagr, Sangoo and Drass. Through Kenapa people of Gon, Ali Khan created disturbances in Drass, Shagr and Singoo and at last influenced these people. The sovereign Barkapa people of Shagr Shangoo besides Govt. and Barkapa people, by the efforts of Kenapa people of Gon, submitted before Ali Khan, that Chilas and Astore people often attack their countries and loot their money and Property. They also arrest their women as well as men and made them slaves. They don't have any security arrangement; therefore, Raja Askardo must keep them under his security and shall protect them from attacks of those cruel people. Ali Khan accepted their request happily and annexed Drass, Shagr, Shangoo with his Govt. and made security arrangements on Astore routes. Security posts were arranged at Nala Shagr adjacent to Krabosh and Nala Shangoo adjacent to

Giltaree. Bridges were constructed here, where soldiers were deployed during spring season, till Astore route remained open.

In Drass area, a regular fort was constructed at Goshan and army was deployed there. One Kharpoon was appointed for this whole area. In this manner, the areas of Shagr Shangoo and Drass annexed with Govt. of Askardoo. Gol's Kewapa dynasty, was held responsible for security of boundary who had performed excellent diplomatic services for accession of Shagr Shangoo and Drass and in return of these services they were offered the post of wazarat.

Ghazi Meer 1565-1595 A.D.

After this management he was striving to extend his Govt, but he could not survive for long. Later on, his son Ghazi Meer Succeeded him, who followed the foot prints of his father. During his rule, the Govt. of Askardoo made tremendous Progress and extended beyond its boundaries. The area of Rondu was ruled by Lone Chai dynasty.

Accession of Rondu

The last ruler of this dynasty died issueless. When there was no real successor Ghazi Khan immediately captured Rondu. Astak was capital of Lone Chai dynasty and was the last village of this area towards Gilgit. During Askardoo Govt. Astak was also capital. In short, after conquest of lower side of Sind valley, Ghazi Meer attended towards upper part of Sind valley. The countries of Parkota and Kartaksha were associated with Govt. of Ladakh and Ladakh's Kharpon i.e; Governor, was residing at Kartaksha. The padee Charkatee boundary was between Ladakh and Askardoo. Ghazi decided to conquest Parkota and

Kartaksha. He arranged an expedition among brave people of Baltistan and appointed his son and crown prince Ali Sher Khan, who later on became famous as Inchen i.e; Great and who made such conquests, which were remarkable and great for Askardoo dynasty, as commander in Chief and deputed to Parkota. He made this arrangement so quickly that Ladakhis did not find time to send reinforcements from Ladakh. The Parkota and Kartaksha army confronted with valour, but did not succeed to stop the onslaught of Ali Shah's army. The Signs of Ladakhi bunkers from village Seerlung upwards on the slope of Doogbar plain, were present till my adjustment, wherefrom they confronted Ali Shah. But, as Ali Sher Khan, attacked these bunkers from hill, these strongholds became useless. The Ladakhis were compelled to leave their bunkers and were defeated.

Accession of Parkota and Kartaksha

After conquering Parkota, Ali Sher Khan, directly attacked Kartaksha. During that period, the Kartaksha route was leading from village Paree and was passing through right bank of river Sind. Adjacent to village Gundoo, there was an iaccessible rock downwards. I observed signs of bunkers inside it. The Ladakhis after their defeat camped here and again confronted Ali Sher Khan with full might. But they were unable to stop him. Ali Khan succeeded to capture Kartaksha and annexed it with Askardoo.

Attack on Soot and control of Boda Kharboo

The Ladakhi's absconded from Kartaksha. Ali Sher Khan Chased them upto Agarkonu. Here he came to know about

Chigthan ritos and on this basis, he attacked Soot. He got Choo Sargang Malik and Adam Malik released from Mirza Sultan's Prison and captured their inherited property at Chigthan and Pushkum and for this service, captured Bodh Kharboo and appointed his Kharpoon here. Later on, looting some rural areas of Ladakh Govt. returned back to Askardoo. On arriving Kartsaksha, he appointed previous ruling dynasty's present successor Haider as Aamil Kartaksha and left for Parkota. Here he, set right state affairs and appointed noble's for realizing revenue taxes and came back to Askardoo. A grand function was celebrated for this great success.

Jimyang Nemgeel's attack of Soot and conquest of Bodh Kharboo

After few years of this event, to revenge against Ali Sher Khan, Jimyang Nemgeel Gayalpo Ladakh attacked Soot and crossing from FatuLa, first of all he killed Kharpoon of Ali Sher Khan and his army in Bodh Kharpoo and controlled Bodh Kharboo. Then marching ahead of Bodh Kharpoo he conquered Wakha. Thereafter, murdering Rajgan Malba and Phohaar, he controlled their countries. Then he was engaged in attacking Mirza Sultan, Raja of Soot.

Ali Sher Khan's attack of Ladakh

In the meantime, Ali Sher Khan associating with Raja Shagr and Raja Saling Khar, was arranging for attacking Ladakh and had assembled army. When Bodh Khar's absconding people met him and related their tales of woe, he alongwith his army attacked Ladakh. Though Gayalpo was not present there, but Ladakhis confronted Batli army and a fierce battle took place,

but Ladakh's were defeated and Ali Sher Khan as successor, entered capital of Ladakh with great pomp and show. Later on, Jimyang Nemgeel leaving Soot, arrived Ladakh and tried his best, but had to face defeat and was imprisoned by Ali Sher Khan.

Ali Sher Khan, looted Ladakh and the whole country. The people of Ladakh requested for peace. Since he was not interested to control Ladakh, therefore, he agreed to make peace. With respect to peace agreement, Gotamatcho, (Nala Girgara) was recognized as boundary between Ladakh and Askardoo; The village Ganokh and Nala Girgirah disembarked from Govt. of Ladakh, annexed with Askardo Govt. Jimyang Nemgeel married his daughter Mandokh Gayalpo with Ali Sher Khan and made temporary arrangement for Ladakh Govt. He with his Ladakhi Rani and Jimyang Nemgeel returned back to Askardoo.

Payment of annual gifts to Askardoo for Bodh Kharboo

Ali Sher Khan did not try for regaining Bodh Kharboo from Ladakh, but instead, agreed for payment of gifts annually. For this purpose a Lama of Gompa Lamayuru was appointed, who receiving fixed annual gifts was present at river Sooru. It is recorded in the history of Gompa Larayuru but the description of these gifts is absent. Lama Gonpo who is Loban of this Gompa, records, that this Loopchakh continued till Dogra conquest and stopped later on..

In short, Ali Sher Khan, after end of war under such conditions, returned back to Askardo alongwith his Ladakhi wife Mandokh Gayalmo and father in Law, Gayalpo Jimyang Nemgel from Ladak. Here Yagboo Sher Ghazi, Raja Sarlang Khar in

order to extend his relations married his daughter Argeyal Khatoon with Jimyang Neemgeel on the condition that the offspring's of Argeyal Khatoon shall be the successor in case of no issue from Jimyang Nemgeel's earlier Gayalmo. After this arrangement, yugboo Ghazi reinstated Jimyang Nemgol on his Govt. and sent him back to Ladakh. Singay Nemgeel was born from Argoyal Khatoon.

Marriage of Ali Roy's daughter with Prince Salim

Now the time came when Baltistan maintained relations with Delhi Empire. King Akbar conquered Kashmir in 994 Hijra (1586 AD) and annexed it with Delhi Empire. In 1000 Hijra, when he again visited Kashmir, according to Zakaullah's History of Hindustan, the Tibet Minor (Baltistan) ruler, Ali Roy (It must be Ali Sher Khan, because during that period, instead of Raja, Roy was used as title. Though Ali Sher Khan was only crown Prince at that time and the real governor of Tibet Minor was his father Ghazi Mir. Since he was famous due to conquest of Parkota and Kartaksha, therefore, it is learnt, that this act is related to him. It is possible that it might have been Ghazi Mir and the girl in reality should have been Ali Khan's sister instead of his daughter), requested the King that his daughter be married to Prince Salim. The King agreed and marriage was ceremonised. In this way Ali Sher Khan made association with Delhi Empire.

Diplomatic Mission from Delhi Empire

Raja Ali Sher Khan's Ladakh invasion has been recorded by Zakaullah in his History of Hindustan, during third visit of

Kashmir in 1005 Hijra, the King desired that the governor of Tibet Minor be advised, therefor Umeed Ali Holak, Talib Asfahani and Mohammad Qulee Kashmiri were deputed to Tibet Minor to meet Marzalban Ali Roy and deputed Ayub Beigh and others to meet Governor of Tibet Buzarg (Major). The Separai and wazir, Raju Roy, did pay any attention. The Marzaban of this place assembling the army confiscated his Jagir, by which he was perturbed. In those days Ali Roy was against the ruler of Buzrag Tibet and due to his wazir's weakness controlled and arrested him. He amassed wealth from fort and captured many places. When he came to know about arrival of King's army, he appointed one of the Marzaban's as governor of this place and left from here. This war created such an interest among Ali Sher Khan and his victorious army that peaceful life was impossible for them. It is also known, that Ali Sher Khan, also interfered in handing over Kashmir. The explanation of this incident was not available in Baltistan records, but Zakaullah in his History of Hindustan, states.

“When Ali Roy conquered Tibet Buzarag and amassed wealth, his mind was not in its normal state and created disturbances in 1012 Hijra, during transfer of Kashmir. The King ordered Quleech Khan, Sobedar Lahore, that a party of reinforcements be sent for Shaista Mohammad Qulee, Governor Kashmir, to crush this egoistic man. Quleech Khan, deputed three thousand cavalry and five hundred soldiers under Saif-ullah Khan's command to help and assist Mohammad Qulee. Saif-ullah Khan was his son. Ali Roy absconded without fighting. The royal army chased him and returned back.

Ali Sher Khan's invasion of Dardistan

In the meantime, Gilgit, Chilas and Astore people instigated Ali Sher Khan, by continuously attacking Rondoo,

Shagr Shangoo and Drass and he was determined to subdue them. After defeating Astore, Chilas and Gilgit he arrived upto Chitral. It was not known, that who was the ruler of Gilgit and Chitral at that time. As a mark of conquest, he planted a plant and the plant is now inside the girth of chinar tree.

At the junction of Nala Bagrote and river Gilgit, towards village Danyore, Ali Sher Khan constructed a Ashagran (Pologround), which is present till date and is famous as Magpoon's Ashagran. Here some ruins are also available. It is possible, that he might have constructed any house or a security post. However, it is evident from these attacks of that period, that this place in Gilgit's jurisdiction has been the capital of Ali Sher Khan.

Accession of Haramosh Area with Askardo

Ali Sher Khan was engaged in war for three years. Despite of bloodshed in these battles, he did not made accession of any country with Askardoo. After conquering Gilgit and Buroo he dismembered Haramosh area from Govt. of Gilt and annexed it with Rondoo.

Settlement of Prisoners of war of Dardistan in Baltistan

On his return Ali Sher Khan, brought a good number of Prisoners of war from Broshawl, Gilgit, Chilas and Astore to Askardoo and settled them in following habitations.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Satpardatandal | Askardoo Area |
| 2. Kinksho | Parkota Area |
| 3. Thungchew | Nala Toltee. |

4. Nala Angoot;
Galyakhas
Toorgoond
Hargoos

Kartaksha Area

Mymoos & Kirkat

With it, he constructed a fort in every border village of Kartaksha area and for this reason, this area was named as Kharmang i.e; a country of many forts and these days the said name is very common in this area.

Construction of Mandook Khar by Gayalmo

In ansence of Ali Sher Khan, Ladakh Gayalamo did not like to live with Askardo people at Kharpochay. Therefore, she constructed a separate palace outside the fort, which was named as Mandook Khar on Gayalmo's name. A garden was also laid there which was famous by the name Haloo Bagh. This garden and palace was built at a high altitude from fort habitation. There was need to supply water through a canal to this palace. Mandook Gayalamo constructed a canal from Nala satpar which was passing through Bazar Sikka maidan, through a great platform. To see this wonderful work, one was surprised for its hard labour. Ali Sher Khan on his returns from Gilgit, inspected this palace and canal. He had all prize for this commendable work but objected that construction of this palace shall weaken the defence of Khaepochey. This palace is nowhere now but people spotted its location to me.

Coronation of Ali Sher Khan 1015 Hijra; 1595-1633 A.D.

After his return, in about 1015 Hijra, Ali Sher Khan assumed thrown. During his period of Govt. he avoided invasion and diverted his all attention towards development. He established colonies through Prisoners of War.

Construction of Dam on Nala Satpar

With Progress of Govt. the people of Askardoo town were also on the road of Progress. The waters of Nala Satpar were not sufficient for irrigation for this vast area. Therefore, he managed to store waters of Nala Satpar below Satpar habitation in a narrow valley, so that during winter season, when there is no need of water for irrigation the waters of Nala shall store here and in spring season, the stored water shall be used as per needs slowly and steadily. For this purpose, he constructed a strong dam of stones in line with three openings so that water trickles slowly through them. It was a masterpiece of architecture and skill and still reminds us about the courage and skill of its founder. Alas, part of this dam had demolished and there is an apprehension that gradually the rest may also collapse. For the time being, it is in use. In the beginning of winter when there is no need of irrigation, the walls of this dam are blocked by mud to stop leakages and in spring, water is used for irrigation. Its repairs demand lot of expenditure, which is beyond reach of Poor Zamindars.

Ali Sher Khan Inchen, despite of his conquests, peace and prosperity was the greatest and powerful ruler of Askardoo, for which Askardoo dynasty can boast. He deserves the title he was awarded.

Abdal Khan 1633-34 A.D.

Ali Sher Khan Inchen had three sons, Adam Khan, Abdal Khan and Ahmad Khan. He had deputed Abdal Khan to rule Parkota and Kartaksha in his life time. He was residing at Parkota. The elder son, Adam Khan was crown Prince and the youngest son Ahmad Khan was settled at Rondou. Both brothers Adam Khan and Abdul Khan had differences for succession. Since Abdal Khan was powerful, he was successful. He controlled Govt. of Askardoo. Adam Khan absconded from Askardoo via Kashmir and went to Delhi.

Abdal Khan's invasion of Shagar and absconding of Hassan Khan to Delhi

At that time, Shagr was ruled by Mohammad Khan who was famous as Mama Khan. He had twelve sons. After death of Mohammad Khan, Abdal Khan attacked Shagr and arresting his twelve sons, deputed them to twelve different villages for murder. Among them eleven boys were murdered as per Abdal Khan's orders, but the Twelfth Hassan Khan, who was the eldest and the successor of Govt. absconded by the help of some people of Gandah, to Srinagar and from there he went to Delhi to meet Adam Khan. Since both were enemies of Abdal Khan. Hassan Khan approached royal darbar, but could not arrange for assistance. However, Hassan Khan stayed at Delhi. At last, he got an opportunity to accompany the King for hunting tiger. It is said, that wounded tiger attacked the king and Hassan Khan with great courage intervened and killed tiger by his sword. In return of this bravery and service, an edict was issued to Sobedar Kashmir, to extend army assistance for Hassan Khan to restore him on his position.

Hassan Khan's control of Shagar Govt. by help of Delhi Empire

Abdal Khan, struggled very hard to retain Shagr, under his control and confronted royal forces in this behalf. But he had miscalculations about his, might, as a result, he was arrested and carried to shagr. He lost the Govt. of Askardoo. He spent his last days of life in prison and passed away in prison at Shagr. His grave at Shagr is present till date. This event has been stated by Zaka ullah, in "History of Hindustan" as.

"Jehanghir was determined to conquer Tibet. Hashim Khan son of Qasim Khan, Meer Bahr, ruler of Kashmir, assembled soldiers and cavalry men, by the orders of Jehangir. Though he struggled very hard to make entry in that country but, except bloodshed, he achieved nothing and had to return high and dry".

"In the beginning of 1046 Hijra, e; 1634 AD, Shahjehan ordered, Zaffar Khan, Governor of Kashmir alongwith his army to conquer Tibet. He assembling eight thousand cavalrymen and foot soldiers, went to Tibet via Kartasy and in one month's period came to Askardoo, wherefrom starts the jurisdiction of Tibet. It is on opposite side of Neelam river. Harzaban encircled footwalls of Tibet".

"Ali Roy father of Abdual Marzaban had constructed two high walls on top of two mountains and the highest among them Kharpochay was famous and the second was low called Kechna. Each of them had a tedious and narrow route. The inmates of fort were walking over the mountain. Abdal was confined to Kharpochay fort and Mohammad Murad handed over the custody of Kechnafort to his advocate, who was Nazim of his expeditions and kept his family under security in fort Shagr which lie on opposite side of river Neelam on the mountain.

Zaffar Khan on seeing location and strength of these forts avoided to laid siege and thought that soldiers and people of Tibet are indifferent towards Addal, therefore, he should devise a plan to arrest Abdal by deploying soldiers. The army can reside here for not more than two months. In case, the stay is extended then the routes shall got blocked by snowfall. Therefore, he deputed Mir Fakhrudeen alongwith Farhad Beigh and four thousand cavalry and foot soldiers to invade fort Shagr and was himself after Abdul. Hassan Khawahar zad and Abdal, the royal employees and some Zamindars of Kashmir who were acquainted with Marzboom inhabitants were appointed to motivate people to submit.

“Mir Fakhrudeen arrived at river Neelamand arranged some boats. The inhabitants of Tibet had built a wall enroute and behind it, was staying a group of gunmen, to stop royal forces. Meer deputed two thousand Tibetan during midnight in order to evict opposite forces from the route. The royal army defeated opposite soldiers and crossing river came near lower side of fort and began to make arrangements in fort. Next day, Abdal's fifteen year old son, who was guarding the wall, came to fight with royal forces. Farhad Beigh stopped him at Kamrkoh and fought. Farhad Beigh was wounded, while some servants of Zafar Khan were killed. The opponents absconded and went towards fort. The royal forces established their posts outside the Southern gate of Shagr. Abdal's son was so frightened by royal forces that he had no idea about his father's family. Whatever he could carry in cash and kind, during night he fled away from Kashgri gate. On 29th Rabi-ul-awl, Mir Fakhrudeen entered fort but could not avoid bloodshed by his army. He arrested family of Abdal and his soldiers chased Abdal's son but they could not arrest Abdal's son. They returned back with Gold and Silver in Possession which they found enroute.

Zaffar Khan became happy with this news of conquest. He was determined to conquer Kharpochay and Kachna forts. On his directive, the people of Kachna inside fort, who were disturbed for want of food supplies, were forced by Tibetan people to come out of fort and handed over fort to royal forces. Abdal Khan due to opposition by his own people, by handing over forte and by arrest of his son and wife was so frightened that he left fort Kharpochay came to Zaffar Khan through good officers of Shadiyan Pakhee wal. Next day, Zaffar Khan alongwith Abdal went inside the fort and read out kings message and returned back. The King received message about it. In the meantime, Mir Fakhrudeen came alongwith Abdal's family and two lakh rupees of loot money. Habib Chak and Ahmad Maliks families were also imprisoned by Zaffar Khan, who during Ateqad Khan's period due to disturbances and riots had fled from Kashmir to Tibet. In those days, Abdul had deputed them to Kashmir to create mischief there so that royal forces are perturbed. Habib Cjhak, who during Sobedari of Mirza Ali Beigh had come under refuge of Tibetians and Zaffar Khan came in.

Murad Khan's control of Askardoo 1634 A.D.

Zaffar Khan with fear of closure of roads due to snowfall or creating riots by miscreants deputed by Abdal in Kashmir, handed over control of Tibet to Mohammad Murad Vakil. Abdal accompanied by outlaws returned. Neither he made any arrangements for his country nor investigated about Abdal's belongings. When King came to know about retreat, he issued orders to Zaffar Khan that when country had been conquered forts won, Marzaban (foreign) and outlaws subdued, come

immediately and Handover country to Abdal's advocate, who must be confident and credible.

Two routes lead to Tibet, one from Kartasy second from Lar. The Kartasy route is more than four manzil's than lar route and leads through high mountains and narrow passes, through which not more than one horse rider can pass. But as against Lar route, there is less cold and snowfall on Kartasy route. Due to this reason, this route is short and people reach Tibet quickly. The Lar route is near Tibet, but due to heavy and continuous snowfall, it is very arduous. One mountain is snow covered throughout the year and water flows out of it. Due to this reason, travelers hardly cross through it. Due to leveled surface, some distance can be covered easily, but one Kotal is thirty Kos from Kashmir, which is very difficult to cross. The road is so closed that it is difficult to cross through horseback. Food is not available on those two routes. Zaffar Khan and his companions took so much food stuffs with them which was sufficient till their arrival to Kashmir.

There are 21 Paragons in Tibet and 37 forts. Due to innumerable mountains and shortage of plains, agriculture is less. Jowar, wheat and Rice are the main crops. The total annual income is not more than Rupees one lakh. There is a stream in this area where gold is extracted. Every year the production of gold is 2000 tolas, which costs @ of Rupees seven per tola. The fruits include watermelon, Zardalu, Shafaltoo and sweat grapes. The apple of this place is totally red. The fruits are available in one season only.

Adam Khan Raja Askardoo, 1635-1660 A.D.

Under vicegerancy of Mirza Khan, 1651 A.D.

Under Vicegerancy of Murad Khan 1660 A.D.

The conditions of Askardoo due to civil war and external aggressions were critical. The systematic historical record of

these aggressions is not available. In Shagr Nama, these events are recorded in Poetic style in an unsystematic Pattern.

In short, the systematic events are that after Abdal Khan's imprisonment the Govt. of Askardoo, which royal army officers had handed over to Murad Khan, were entrusted to Adam Khan from Delhi Empire. But he himself did not come to Askardoo but deputed Mirza Khan of Karaksha as his deputy in Askardoo. He ruled for about ten years from Adam Khan's side and then he desired to be sovereign.

Murad Khan (Shah Murad) Raja Askardoo 1660-1680 A.D.

In the meantime, Murad Khan defeated by Imam Qulee Khan, arrived at Delhi. There Murad Khan became son in law of Adam Khan and recognized him as his successor. Dur to support from royal empire, he recaptured Askardoo from Mirza Khan and appointed Murad Khan as his deputy in Askardoo. During Adam Khan's life, Murad Khan was governing in the name of Adam Khan. Later on ,he himself became Raja and was famous as Shah Murad.

Imam Qulee Khan, Raja Shagr and Shah Murad, Sher Ali and Ali Shah Rajgan Askardoo and Rahim Khan, Hatim Khan, Babar and Youqub etc. Rajgan Khaplu's achievements are recorded in Shagr Nama, which perhaps is the publication of Imam Qulee Khan's period and the manuscript which is available with me of 1166 Hijra edition, is recorded in poetic style. I am very sorry that the manuscript which I received was short of few pages. For this reasons, the name of author and date of publication is silent. Besides, some pages in middle of book are also wanting which breaks the series of explanation.

When Murad Khan was gifted the Govt. of Askardoo through Zaffar Khan he attacked Shagr where Imam Qulee Khan was Raja. In Shagr Namsa, the statement beings as:

Murad Khan's attack on Shagr and absconding to Rondoo after defeat

Next morning, Prince Murad with his wazirs, Noble's and army after crossing river Sind went towards Shagr. Amir Ahmad and Mirza Khan were accompanying him. He was just to enter Shagr that detective informed him that Imam Qulee Khan is coming to combat you. All Shagr wrestlers are accompanying him. They are after your blood. If you want to save your life, then do plan for peace treaty, otherwise there is no chance for survival of your life. This news created panic among Shah Murad's army and they began to fled away. It encouraged Shagr people and they were after Shah Murad's arrest. But Imam Qulee Khan said to his commanders, that Shah Murad is like my father. I don't want to hurt him anyway. Tell him to leave our country and go to Randon forest, though that country is also under our control. But for God's sake, we forgive him. In case he has desire to fight he is welcome in battlefield.

When Shah Murad received this message, he absconded from Shagr. During his departure, he took away, many goods i.e; horses, swords Saddle, Gold, Silver and other articles whatever he could get, which belonged to Imam Qulee Khan's grandfather, Late Raja Hassan Khan and arrived Randock in distressed conditions. Imam Qulee Khan came to know about this loot and it was revealed that army commanders are of the idea to chase Shah Murad for arrest. But Imam Qulee Khan with great generosity said, that world is temporary and its love detaches man from Almighty Allah. We can extend nothing

except Kindness to Shah Murad, but he treated us badly, leave him alone and don't disturb him.

Conditions of Rondow in 11th Hijra

Shah Murad resided at Rondou. The Picture of that period about Rondou, drawn by author of Shagr Nama has been very strange. Shah Murad was compelled to spent his life with devil instead of human beings. This country is narrow as grave and there is no plain surface in it, so that man can enjoy walking. The inhabitants of this country are idiots like animals and are far from civilization. Scholars and skilled people don't hold any respect here people look like human beings but possess devil's characters. Their bodies are gifted with so much hair that they look like bears. They hardly care about their promise. They are slaves of misdeeds and sexual desires and thought it to be the sole objectives of their lives. They eat like cows and ox's and sheep like rabbits. In such a country, Murad Khan resided for one to two years and collected goods from people. He has already established his position and status by belongings of Hassan Khan and non with strong position, he left for Hindustan from Astak, to claim for Tibet. He left his brother Ali Shah at Rodu and appointed Sher Shah as his deputy to administer and seeking leave from Shah Sultan and Imam Qulee etc. left and attended the darbar of Shahjehan. The King was sympathetic. Therefore, the King in consultation with his wazir Saidullah Khan, planned that Adam Khan's daughter be married with this young man. So that they are one and enemy is threatened. Therefore, the marriage was ceremonied at the behest of King. Both husband and wife were living peacefully. In the meantime, the Govt. of Askardo was handed over to Adam Khan from

Delhi Empire. He deputed Mirza Khan of Kartaksha as his deputy in Askardoo.

Mirza Khan's disobedience and Murad Khan as crown Prince

Mirza Khan as deputy of Adam Khan, Governed Askardoo for ten years with great success. Thereafter, he had differences with Adam Khan's wazir and killed him. He disobeyed Adam Khan and declared independence. He closed Kashmir route. Zaffar Khan came but was defeated. When Adam Khan came to know about him, he called Murad Khan and said, my son, my life is now over and am old now. But I had no son like you. Now, you are my son. Till I am alive, do serve me. I shall nominate you as my crown prince and successor and shall handover my country and property to you. I have the only desire, that don't disobey me during my life time.

Adam Khan's Expedition and Conquest of fort Kharpochay

Accordingly, Adam Khan by orders of Emperor Hind, commanding army alongwith his son in law and crown prince Murad Khan, set forth to evict Mirza Khan. Imam Qulee Khan Raja Shagr was also son in law of Adam Khan and both had father and son relations. Before his arrival at Askardo, Adam Khan had sent message to Imam Qulee Khan, that he has come alongwith royal forces for ridiculing Mirza Khan. That wretched men had disobeyed my orders. He killed my sympathizers. As long as I am alive, I am ready to destroy him. But in case he is remorseful for his misdeeds and offer repentance and shall put in black and white that he is sincere and faithful to me, I will

forgive him and shall allow him to work and shall allow him to control the whole country of Askardoo. Contrary to it if he continues to be disobedient and unfaithful I shall leave no stone unturned to punish him. You are an apple of my eye and I hope that you will help me by joining with alongwith your army, so that we both jointly arrest him and hander over crown and thrown to your Khalu Murad Khan and he shall be the ruler from Kartaksha to Rondou. I have adopted him as my son and appointed as crown prince so that he may help you through thick or thin.

Imam Qulee Khan replied, that you are most respected for me. It is my duty to obey you. If enemy faces misfortune, he is himself responsible for his destruction. A fox is no match for a tiger. At last, it will be bad for him. I have time and again advised him, as to why is he playing with his life. In case you might be as energetic as Rustom, but to face, mighty Adam Khan is very difficult. My advice has no effect upon him. He is not sorry for his bad deeds and does not express any sign of remorse. I have seen nothing in his possession except false prestige. Hospitality is far from him. It is better for you not to worry about such an enemy. I have received this country and inheritance through your greatness. Now it is my duty to get rid of your enemy. You are welcome. On your arrival here, you will see that we are ready for your service. You shall feel satisfied from my side. With it, Imam Qulee Khan sent message to Mirza Khan, saying, Alas! You didn't honor your mentor and dug a hole for yourself. My advice fell flat upon you. Now, you can yourself judge, whatever I was saying to you was in your favor, or not? You are bound to serve me. Therefore, I deem it was my duty, that Adam Khan and Murad has complained against you before Emperor Hind and by the orders of Emperor, they have arrived here to murder you. It is impossible for you to get relief from them. Now, it is not suitable to waste time in sports. Do think

upon present circumstances. It is my desire that you are saved from this pain and grief. You are sure to be damaged by them and no one can survive among your supporters. If you want to survive handover fort to me and be out of Askardoo darbar. I served my duties as a friend. You can yourself distinguish between good and bad.

Mirza Khan listened his talk and was cool and calm. He got frightened and Prayed for Imam Qulee Khan and said, that I never thought that I shall face such a misfortune in my life. Forgive me and save me from destruction. I have been your friend. Now don't handover me to enemy, who peels off Skin. I have many enemies here. Do oblige me. Come immediately to Askardoo. I will handover fort and country to you. Then it is your wish to do whatever you may like.

Next day, a man in desperation came to Mirza Khan and said, that Adam Khan arrived with army. With this news, he lost his senses. At the same time he deputed his envoy to Imam Qulee Khan, that Adam Khan has arrived Askardoo and I am out of my senses. If at this time, you won't favor me, I shall have to die. I don't boast before you. I relinquish both country and hereditary estate.

"With this message, Imam Qulee Khan alongwith his army left for Askardoo with Pomp and show. When he crossed river Sind, Mirza Khan was satisfied. He sent a message to Mirza Khan, "Don't worry. I have sent my people to you for making security arrangements of fort and in case, anything untoward happens, do control it. Now I have arrived at Askardoo. You will get rid of your enemy. With this strategy, fort Kharpochay was controlled without resistance. After managing fort, Imam Qulee Khan left towards Adam Khan. When Adam Khan was informed he sent his horse alongwith saddle for his ride. When he came forward, he saw that a big army accompanies Imam Qulee Khan. The procession of Imam

Qulee Khan was that Amir was on a horse like a tiger followed by Hatam Khan like a lion on a mare. He was followed by Shagr wrestlers and numberless soldiers. When Adam Khan looked at the procession, his joy, know no bounds. Imam Qulee Khan came forward. Both ride down from horses and embraced each other.

Next day, Adam Khan invited Qulee Khan and said, that "my heart is restless". I want to confide my secrets to you. You advise me, what to do? No one is supporting me except you. Your Khalu Murad Khan is outwardly in my favor but internally he is opposite to me. What affection he has with me? If I don't get fort, I am finished. He has complained against me before Shahjehan and vehemently opposed me. But by the prayers of religious scholars and the grace of Almighty Allah, I achieved victory and they became my servants. If in this expedition, I don't achieve success, your Khalu shall sting me like a Snake and will create disturbances and I shall have to face the wall. You are holding the key of this difficult problem.

That brave man replied, that don't be Panicky. I shall manage everything and shall again extol your name. but I have a request, that Mirza Khan be provided a route as per his desire, so that he may live somewhere. When I was leaving from you for my motherland, enroute, he was serving me well. I feel ashamed, in case he is maltreated by me. If you agree, then hand over the fort to my Khalu and he may be ordered that he shall be my sincere supporter. He shall have to take oath of Holy Quran for my satisfaction.

Adam Khan said, that your proposal sounds me well. Call your Khalu, so that I shall handover fort and country to him on your recommendations and shall direct him to be grateful to you. By your recommendations, I forgive him otherwise it was difficult to Pardon him. Murad Khan was present. Adam Khan, oh! My son. Imam Qulee Khan is like my son. On his

recommendations, I handover the fort of Askardoo to you. You should be faithful to him in every affair. With Quran in your hand, take an oath that you will never betray him. In case you don't follow him, I shall be against you. Shah Murad replied, that there is no need of your warning. Imam Qulee Khan is my son. The attachment with you, created more affection for him. Who is such an unwise man who himself will shot his eye. Adam Khan said that verbal talks are not credible. With Holy Quran in your hand, do acknowledge. On this, Murad Khan took an Oath, that in case I inflict damage to Imam Qulee Khan, then the Holy Book Shall be against me. After this, seeking permission Imam Qulee Khan went to Mirza Khan and said to him, that I have saved you from the paws of tiger. Now dismount and shall send you to Shagr and shall always keep good relations with you. Mirza Khan, thought it appropriate and came out of Kharpochay and left Shagr with his wealth and property. He lived there for a long period. Then he left to Khaplu and was a refugee with the ruler of that country.

Murad Khan as deputy of Adam Khan and handing over of Fort Kharpochay

Next day, Imam Qulee Khan sent message to Adam Khan to visit Kharpochay. The house is now lying vacant. People have left from this country. Adam Khan replied, "that you performed a great job which can't even be performed by Rustom". But Aleem Beigh and Mohammad Shafi have come with me as per orders of Emperor Delhi. It is better, to handover fort to them, so that they are honored by the Sarkar. Imam Qulee Khan, understanding the proposal, handed over fort to them and they handed it over to Adam Khan. Adam Khan gifted to Murad Khan and said, my son never disobey my orders. I have

appointed you as my deputy. Avoid to pain my friends. Don't cut trees out of my orchard. By the grace of Almighty Allah, till I am alive, don't take care about yourself. This all belongs to me when I close my eyes then you will be the ruler of this country.

Then they went to fort. Adam Khan sat on the thrown. Imam Qulee Khan was also allotted a seat. Celebrations were held for few days. When celebrations were over, Adam Khan said to Aleem Beigh, that by the grace of Emperor Hind, I achieved my goal. It is useless to stay for long in this country. He replied, that indeed, now army must go back. Therefore, Adam Khan returned back to Kashmir and submitted the details of conquest to Shahejehan. He was fought with royal robes from Sarkar. From here, he returned to Kashmir and lived there.

Adam Khan's expedition of Tibet

This event has been recorded by Zakaullah in his History of Hindustan, during Shahjehan's rule in 1061 Hijra(1651 AD) in a summarized form as:

“On Rajab, 12, Adam Khan, Ghulam Nabi and his nephew Mohammad Murad besides, Aleem Beigh and Nayeem Beigh sons of Salim Beigh Kashgiri, who were surety of Adam Khan and Gulam Nabi and were deployed in Kashmir and a party of Kashmir Zamindars was sent to Tibet with the purpose to ridicule, Mirza Khan Tibeti, who revolted and to conquer fort Askardo. Tibet which was out of royal employees be captured. On Shaban 27, it was evident from Adam Khan Tibeti's request that when Mirza Khan came to know about arrival of royal army, he fled away and fort Askardoo and country of Tibet came under control of royal personnel. The King directed Adam Khan and his brothers that they shall live there as patriots. It was costing eighty Lakhs”.

Afterwards, I attend to the events recorded in Shagar Nama. "When Adam Khan went to Kashmir and royal army also returned, then Murad Khan manned the government. But he had so much respect for Adam Khan, that he didn't utter any word without his orders. When his orders were issued, he without wasting any moment was obeying. In the meantime, Mirza Khan coming back to his country began to rule and conspired with enemies of Murad Khan. Thereupon, Murad Khan scolded him, which is as:

"Murad Khan was disliking the Sardar of Kartaksha, but Murad Khan had suffered at his hands. Therefore, Murad Khan Penned down a letter to Adam Khan, that Mirza's of Kartaksha's have made relations with our enemies and have joined them. If allowed, arrangements for his destruction shall be made. Adam Khan was pained by this message. He replied to Murad Khan, that Imam Qulee Khan has been appointed as your advisor. As planned by him, you should follow him to trample enemies. You should never give chance of complaint to Imam Qulee Khan, because he is always your friend and supporter. When Murad Khan received this letter, he felt ashamed that why he initiated such a movement without Imam Qulee Khan. He informed Imam Qulee Khan about contents of Adam Khan's dispatch and sought Pardon for his mistake. He requested him to come to Tanmosa and I shall submit my objections and shall decide about expedition and shall decide about expedition verbally".

Imam Qulee Khan received this letter and was pained. He called wazirs and noble's and said, that Murad Khan in order to attack Kartaksha, requests for reinforcements from us, because he has suffered heavily from Kartaksha. You ponder upon every affair and answer about its effects upon our country. All in one voice requested that we are all acquainted about the nature of your Khalu. It is our opinion, that we have to face nothing except destruction and damages. It is better to avoid it. Never treat an

enemy weak. You gifted him with thrown of Askardoo without our advice. We are still dejected for that act. The Shah said, that to do good, instead of bad, is praised in the world. Besides, once we have been very kind to him and to depart at this juncture seems absurd. Preparations be made for invasion of Kartaksha. Today, we shall camp at Tanmusa. There we shall enter into an agreement of peace with Murad Khan. A meeting of Shagr and Askardo Rajgan was held at Tanmousa. After exchange of gifts, Murad Khan entreated, that I am your follower and you should take care to support me. There is no one in Tibet except you to help me. If you extend help to me, then we will defeat enemy within few days. Imam Qulee Khan answered, that you should not worry. So long as am alive, I shall support you through thick or thin.

It was decided that joint army of Shagr and Askardoo shall attack Kartaksha. The land of this country is narrow like Paradise Pathway. There are no signs of peace and prosperity here. The people are so poor and narrow minded that even a saint is not provided food. There are rocks and rocks only. They habitations are located at the foot of mountains. The main Kharmang is located between two hills, whose flood waters flow day and night.

Murad Khan's invasion of Kartaksha

The wrestlers of Shagr and Askardoo entered this land and arrived at Parkota. In fort Parkota, Mirza's son, Ali Khan was ready for confrontation. But wrestlers by their might and strategy conquered this fort. Ali Khan was imprisoned. From here they arrived Toltee and also conquered fort Toltee. Later on , they camped at Main Kharmang. Here Mirza was present in the fort. This fort was situated on a high and inaccessible rocky

peak. The altitude of fort building of the rock, was touching skies and Mirza was seated there like an angel. For two days and two nights, the Jawans of Tibet were struggling to control fort but it was all in vain. On seeing it, Murad Khan assembled his army and said that it is not possible to control this fort by force. It has to be done strategically. As a plan, we have to be sober and Patient.

Therefore, army was deployed from every direction and ordered for provision of goods. In this loot, army produced all goods before Raja. A heap of food grains was collected so that on seeing it the enemy shall frighten. Likewise, collecting food stuffs, the Tibetan army laid siege satisfactorily and stayed for four months at Kharmag. At last, enemy was fed up and sent an envoy to Rajgan, that "if you agree I shall be allowed to proceed anywhere as Per my Choice, then I shall move out of fort". The Rajgan Askardoo and Shagr accepted this precondition and agreed that "you are free to go anywhere as you like".

On this agreement, Mirza Khan left out of fort with some gifts and presents in his Possession. Murad Khan and Imam Qulee Khan came out of their tents. They had a meeting. Mirza Khan entreated and said, "please forgive me, I shall be grateful always. "The Rajgan Askardo and Shagr replied, that wherever you like, you can go without any fear and road is open. Mirza Khan became very happy and left towards Tibet city(Ladakh) alongwith his friends and relations. Murad Khan and Imam Qulee Khan raised the flag of victory.

Award of Kartaksha country to Sher Khan

Imam Quleew Khasn advised Murad Khan that you cannot manage such a great country all alone. It is better for you, to hand over the conquered country of Kartaksha to your brother

Sher Khan. Murad Khan, agreed the proposal and offered the thrown of Kartaksha to Sher Khan. The army now returned from Kartasksha.

Ali Khan's absconding towards Khaplu

During night news received that Ali Khan absconded from arrest had left towards Khaplu. Murad Khan said that he will destroy Khaplu to teach enemy a lesson.

Expedition to Khaplu

Murad Khan relieved from Kartaksha conquest, was determined to conquer Khaplu. He made peace with Imam Qulee Khan. He agreed to support him. Both armies arrived Khirkoo and captured fort. Marching ahead they attacked Haldey and damaged fort there. Then arriving Sirfa Khar, controlled it and looted property everywhere. Khaplu Raja Rahim Khan's had shifted his capital Thoor to Khar. He dispatched a letter to him, stating as why you disobeyed our orders. Are you not aware about our might? The fort about which you boast, will be destroyed within no time. You might have seen that i have conquered Khartaksha by force and destroyed enemy. Do you like to be finished like that?

Rahim Khan replied why you attacked our country? Instead of human being, why you acted like a devil? You know it already, that we are not under your subordination. It is worse than death, for us, that we follow dictates of other people. There is no alternative for us except war with you. If you have the power, do come. But do remember, that there will be no alternative for you to fled away like fox. In case, you feel hurt, you are yourselves responsible for it. When Murad Khan read the

letter, he was disturbed about its pros and cons. He consulted his Sardars and wazirs, who said, that Thoor is very high than Khar. Neither it can be controlled by invasion, nor thieves can conquer it. The only alternative is to lay siege of fort and the neighboring areas be attacked. Where there is Shortage of food inside fort, the inmates shall have to face wall. The plan was followed and siege continued for three months. In the meantime, battles were fought for two to three times but without any result. When there was shortage of foodstuffs, the enemy was forced to depute an envoy to Raja, for Pardon and was ready to handover fort, subject to the condition that he will be safe. Murad Khan replied, that I accept your terms. In case, I do not follow my promise, I won't be a Muslim. When Rahim Khan received this message through his envoy, he was very happy. He went outside fort alongwith, Mirza Khan to offer Salams to Murad Khan. He fell at the feet of Murad Khan. Murad Khan offered Sajda in Praise of Almighty and also praised his valiant soldiers. He sent them in fort and after capturing the country, returned to Askardoo victorious. Murad Khan informed Adam Khan about this conquest and also deputed Mirza Khan to him, to decide for his future. Adam Khan sent Mirza Khan to Hindustan so that Shahjehan shall put him in prison. Murad Khan due to his selfish ends could not keep his promise and imprisoned Rahim Khan.

Murad Khan's expedition of Karboo

Murad Khan got encouraged by these victories and began to seek for further opportunities of war. After few days, he called his army officers and planned that poofeeq is under our influence and its people follow our ideas. But the area of Kharbu is under control of our enemy and we must liberate them. The Sardars replied, that to detach Kharboo from Lhachan Ladakh, is not a big thing. Imam Qulee Khan be consulted, as his assistance is

necessary. Therefore, Imam Qulee Khan was requested to arrange for reinforcements. He deputed Amir Khan with army. Both armies arrived at Kharboo and laid siege of fort. When news broke out in Ladakh, they deployed army to confront. A fierce battle took place at Kharboo. At last, Ladakhi army fled away towards fort from battleground. The Askardoo army blocked their road and nine soldiers were arrested. The enemy soldiers were innumerable among which nine hundred were imprisoned and about fifty absconded. The rest of army faced death in the battle field. Murad Khan raised flag of victory on Kharboo fort.

When these fifty people arrived Ladakh with this bad news, they felt very sorry for it and plans were made to get prisoners released. At last, it was decided that Murad Khan's sister and her two sons are in prison here and after releasing them shall be sent to Murad Khan in exchange of Ladakhi prisoners of war. Murad Khan accepted this proposal and Youaqb & Babbar alongwith their mother went to him. Thereafter, he released 900 Ladakhi soldiers. From here Murad Khan returned to Askardoo. After conquest of Kharboo Murad Khan handed over both areas of Haldee and Khaplu to his sister's sons, Babbar and Youqub. It was their ancestral inheritance. Hassan Khan and Rahim Khan were brothers. After Hassan Khan's death, Rahim Khan forcibly occupied the area, and evicted Hassan Khan's sons, Youqub and Babbar towards Tibet Major, who were imprisoned by Gayalpoy Ladakh. They got their father's inheritance and were very happy and Murad Khan was also satisfied.

Murad Khan's expedition of saling Khar

As per traditions, after assuming thrown by Babar and Youqub at Khar, Shah Murad attacked Hatam Khan and

conquered upto Kharboo. Now no hope left with Hatam Khan. Therefore, he approached Imam Qulee Khan, Raja Shagr for arbitration, as a result, Shah Murad dropped the idea of marching ahead. He evicted Konais from Saling Khar and annexed with Karas. The sloppy area of rocks between Karas area and Balgar, was named Phoong Luck, was recognized as boundary between Karas and Saling Khar. The rest of conquered village were returned to Hatam Khan by Shah Murad. This arrangement stands established till date.

Adam Khan's Death

In the meantime, an envoy arrived from Kashmir, who informed that Adam Khan passed away. It pained very much. A message was sent to Imam Qulee Khan at Shagr, to come immediately. He came immediately to Askardo and consoled Murad Khan. Murad Khan consulted Imam Qulee Khan that he must now go to India or wait. Imam Qulee Khan proposed that you must immediately report His Highness. Therefore, Murad Khan made preparations for his journey, to India and within few days reported to Shahjehan. Here he was held in high esteem and was awarded the post of Adam Khan. He returned back to Kashmir and stayed for sometime in Kashmir for visit. Then he returned back to Askardoo. Marriage of Habib Khan, Raja Gilgit's son with Murad Khan's daughter

On his arrival at Askardoo he took rest for two to three years. In the meantime, he married his daughter with Habib Khan, Raja Gilgit's son and established relations with Gilgit. He received wealth and property from there and extended his power. Gilgit remained peaceful for two to three years. Then one of Habibn Khan's son, agitated in the country. He disobeyed his father and sent an envoy to Shah Rais Raja Yaseen that "I am

coming to support you". You become Rais of this country and help me. I shall never disobey you. My father hardly cares for me. My brother is after my life. My father made association with Murad Khan Askardoo. I stopped him and he became my enemy. This simple man could not understand that after all Murad Khan shall imprison all of us. For God's sake, help me to be free from enemy suppression.

Shah Rais replied, don't lose courage. Don't fear from enemy. I am ready to send you reinforcements for army, which may engage your enemy. When Habib Khan came to know about, it, he lost his wits. He wrote to Murad Khan, that his undutiful son, has turned down the apple cart. He has joined my enemies and is opposing me. In case you delay in sending army, it will end in smoke. I am earnestly waiting for your army. When Murad Khan received this message, he consulted Imam Qulee Khan, that there are disturbances in Gilgit. The enemies are after my son-in-law. If our army does not support him, the whole country of Gilgit shall come under control of enemy. Imam Qulee Khan replied, that you don't worry. I am ready for your service. Attach army with me and I am leaving immediately and shall stop the enemy.

Marriage of Habib Khan, Raja Gilgit's son with Murad Khan's Daughter

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Murad Khan's expedition of Gilgit and conquest of fort Nomal

After conversation, Murad Khan kissed forehead of Imam Qulee Khan and handed over whole army to him along with his brothers. Imam Qulee Khan with army left for Gilgit and the route of that frontier country is very narrow. Except mountains and rocks, nothing is visible. The people of Gilgit are uncivilized. They are not strict followers of Islam and its traditions. They hardly bother for murdering travelers. They

killed countless Muslims. The army set out from Askardoo for killing these infidels. Leaving Askardoo, this army arrived country of Habib Khan after twenty days. Habib Khan came out for his reception and took Imam Qulee Khan in his palace. A big feast was served and afterwards they left for Nomal. The Sardar of fort Nomal on seeing this gathering was wonder struck, as to how shall confront this army. His wazir, son and confidants assembled and said, don't mind, so long as there is life, we shall fight. The preparations were ready to attack and the brave men said, that they will cut heads of enemy like cutting of pumpkins. On that day, there was bloodshed in the battlefield, but without any success, Both sides were equal in power. War continued for four months. Both sides suffered heavy losses, but without any result. At last, famine broke out in fort and people suffered for want of food. With this the inmates of fort were tortured. They sent message to Imam Qulee for Pardon. In case you take an oath, I shall present myself before you.

Imam Qulee Khan wrote to Murad Khan, that enemy accepts obedience upon oath. Whatever orders, inform accordingly. Murad Khan replied that this mischevious be subdued by an oath subject to the condition, that he shall present himself, before us and shall agree to be sincere. In case I don't return him his country, I shall not be called Muslim. On this Imam Qulee Khan took an oath and subdued enemy and arrived Askardoo with Pomp and Show. Murad Khan joined him enroute and celebrated victory. But later on, Murad Khan arrested this young man, without taking into consideration his oath upon Holy Quran. When Imam Qulee Khan received this news, he said to his Khalu, that you clouded your Iman. In case you don't offer repentance, you will be ruined. Murad Khan did not pay any heed to this advice and Imam Qulee Khan in desperation left for Shagr. Whatever promises Murad Khan has made, were all broken by which people were disgusted from him.

Murder of Murad Khan's son in Law and his second Gilgit Expedition

Leter on, peace lasted for two to three years. Then news received from Gilgit, that Murad Khan's son-in-law was killed by an infidel named Akee Khan and detached his head from his body by a sword. Habib Khan also passed away. Riots broke out throughout country. This news created panic to Murad Khan. He consulted his Sardars and noble's as what to do? All of them in one voice said, that attacks shall be made without any delay. Assistance shall be sought from Imam Qulee Khan.

Murad Khan liked this suggestion and requested Imam Qulee Khan for assistance. He replied that I have sent army and they are sufficient to face enemy. Beforehand, I have suffered a lot in helping you. In further, you won't disturb me. When Murad Khan received this message, he became restless and lost his sleep. He told to his companions, that you don't keep your promises. You took oath before such and such people, still you imprisoned that young man. It pained Imam Qulee Khan. It created differences in our association. On hearing it, he repented but was ready for invasion. He was accompanied by Amir Khan, Sher Khan and other wrestlers and with his army left for Gilgit border. Still he was around , that Akee Khan, left his country and hid himself in a cave. He spent one month in this cave. At last, the wrestlers of Tibet arrived at the mouth of the cave. They ignited fire and stopped flow of smoke. When heat inside cave was unbearable, Akee Khan, requested wrestlers for mercy. They removed fire and arrested him. They presented him before Murad Khan, who became very happy by this achievement. Murad Khan, appointed one of his companions as his deputy and himself went to Askardoo.

Again news came from Gilgit that Bota has created disturbances. Chelees Khan and Hartum have made an association and both of them were ready to wage war against Murad Khan. When Murad Khan came to know about it, he sent a messenger to Shagr that Gilgit is again going out of our control. Be kind to your Khalu and save him from disrespect. Imam Qulee Khan replied that I am not now so strong that I shall visit Kohikaf and besides the Kashgr sister has come to my country. She is accompanied by a big caravan and wants to return here country soon. I have received an edict from Shah Kashgr to send these people to Kashgr immediately. Therefore, Amir Khan is deputed with army. He will arrange with your enemy. With this reply, Murad Khan was very sad and send a message that in case I have committed some mischief, I shall be pardoned. I don't need Amir Khan. It is my desire that you will visit yourself. If whole army is deputed, there is no need of your visit.

With this message, Imam Qulee Khan became angry. He said, that what Murad Khan has to do with me, that he is waiting for me. He is accustomed to dishonesty. To take an oath is like tasting sweets for him. Who has no fear of God, one must fear from him. I have no love for him. I shall never call his name. with this answer Murad Khan felt ashamed. He was firm in his belief. Leading his army he left for Gilgit. When he arrived at Gilgit, both Cheless Khan and Bota were ready to flee. Due to Murad Khan's threat, stayed for some days at Azduwar and then absconded from that place. Clearing this country from mischievous people, Murad Khan was ready to return back and within some days arrived Askardoo. After his return, Bota attacked again and captured Gilgit.

Murad Khan's Threatening to Imam Qulee Khan and his rebuff

Murad Khan returned back from Gilgit and deputed a messenger to Shagr, with the message, that why you disobeyed my orders. Don't you fear from my army. If you love your life and country, submit all property before me and also send your subjects for my service. Your boundary is our boundary and if there is any interference, you will be held responsible. Wherever we need your services, you should support us. To disobey my orders is not in your best interests, because you can't save yourself, from my sword. Report immediately at Askardo darbar and do respect me. If you accept these terms, I am ready to send royal robes through my man.

In case, you deviate from any of pre conditions, then you are not safe. I shall destroy your country and shall imprison your friends. You know, that Khaplu and Pooreeg are under my control while Gilgit and Randoo is my own country. Both rich and Poor bow before me. You saw, how we arrived at Gilgit and we destroyed our enemy. In case you revolt against us, you will have to pay the price and there will be nothing except pain and sorrow for you.

On reading the letter Imam Qulee Khan became impatient with rage and replied that why you have become so uncivilized. You don't remember your past, when dust was your floor and rocks your pillow. You were breathing air of Tibet prison and were kneeling down before idols instead of Allah. I relieved you from that prison and you were receiving stipend from my Govt. you achieved your status because of me otherwise you might have died in prison. You must recognize your position and status and avoid abnormal behavior with your mentor. You have controlled Khaplu and Pooreeg through my sword. Randoo and

Kartaksha has been captured by you through my efforts. The countries of Broshaul and Gilgit were conquered by me and handed over to you. Now, when all the sides have been conquered, there was only one alternative left with you to plan for my attack. In this world, nobleness is rewarded by nobleness, but it is evident, that you possess qualities of a demon, as you want to kill your own people. I have no threat from your sword. You are aware about my sword. In case you attack my country it will be shame for you to fight with my warriors. The noble's of India know, that I am special representative of Shahjehan. You have no control upon my country that you will kill me. I have never been your subordinate neither have begged before anyone like you.

When Murad Khan read this letter, he felt ashamed. His companions observed his position and were disturbed. They told him that are you willing to destroy Imam Qulee Khan. Keeping all things aside, he has suffered long for you and has paid a heavy price at the hands of your enemies. Don't underestimate Imam Qulee Khan like others, who have been defeated by you. He is directly associated with Shahjehan, the Emperor of India. In case, you set your foot in his country, the matter shall be brought to the notice of Shahjehan, in which you will have to suffer. Now you have to plan such strategy by which enemy may suffer. Murad Khan said, what is that strategy? The people said, if you go to Kashmir, the matter will be solved. About state of Kashmir, we can say that Imam Qulee Khan did not participate in Shahjehan's works. He has disobeyed royal orders and has revolted. When you will say the same to Nawab, it will definitely create fear in his mind, otherwise, to wage war against him is a big blunder.

Murad Khan's complaint against Imam Qulee Khan before Sobedar Kashmir

During this period, Nawab Saif Khan was Sobedar of Kashmir, Murad Khan related whole events to him and said that Imam Qulee Khan's forefathers have been my subordinates. He has been respected by me and now he is determined to wage war against me.

Sobedar Kashmir wrote to Imam Qulee Khan, that we have to make an enquiry about you. You listen carefully. Murad Khan has complained against you before us, that you did not accompany him to Gilgit and in spite of helping him, you are working against him. He had been to Gilgit to defeat a mischievousman, otherwise, he says that he has nothing to do with Gilgit. Secondly, Murad Khan says, that your forefathers have been faithful to Murad Khan's ancestors, although you have been serving in Murad Khan Darbar. Now, you are not loyal to follow his orders. With these reasons, Murad Khan desires, that he should be allowed to teach you a lesson. We replied him, that we don't expect such actions from Imam Qulee Khan, because he is loyal to Shahjehan. He sends us presents and gifts. You should not except gifts from him. However, in case he works against Emperor of India, it is a sin. Do answer our questions without any delay.

Imam Qulee Khan replied to Nawab, that my ancestors have never been in subordination to Murad Khan's forefather's. He has nothing to do with the boundary of our state. I supported that mischievous man due to relationship and personal friendship. It is because of me, that he became the ruler otherwise who knows him. I got him and his associate released from Tibet prison. It is through my efforts, that he defeated his enemies. He has always been at my back and call and has been

demanding reinforcements. Now, when it is peace throughout and the disturbances are over, this mad man is raising his eyebrows towards me.

I have not really accompanied him to Gilgit, but his dealings are very bad. He received lot of money from Habib Khan, his friend. If he has been to Gilgit for sake of Emperor of India, then why he is not presenting whatever he received. In case, he offered the same to the Emperor, then I was the culprit, that I have not accompanied him to Gilgit. All property in both cash and kind, whatever he received is in his possession. Now the selfish sinner, ascribes this act to the Emperor of India.

When Nawab became aware about reality, he forgot Murad Khan, and called him in his darbar. He said why you tell lie before me and why you disturbed people. From Gilgit you have brought gifts for Emperor of India. There is nothing except your mischief. You are threatening people and talking non sense. Take an oath, that in future, you will not harm Imam Qulee Khan. In case, you intend to harm him, you will have to face the wall through my sword. I will depute so much army that your country shall perish and your fort shall be lifted upto skies. Murad Khan under threat, took an oath, that I will obey the orders and taking leave from Nawab, returned to Askardoo. The Nawab again wrote to Imam Qulee Khan that your Khalu, has taken an oath, that he will not harm you. In case, he deviated, he shall have to face music.

Murad Khan's Death

When Murad Khan reached his state, he again maintained his earlier strategy and approached Imam Qulkee Khan for his own ends. This conversation continued for few years and as per

will of God, he got involved in disease and after two to three months illness, passed away.

Disloyalty of Ali Shah

As per traditions of world, Murad Khan during his death, requested Ali Shah to look after his sons, after his death and when they attain age of maturity, hand over Govt. to them. Ali Shah, due to deceit, did not follow orders. He sent message to Sher Shah secretly that do you know anything about us. Our state is at crossroads and Murad Khan passed away. Although, he willed that I should lead country but I am not competent for the same. The crown is your cup of tea, although you are younger than me in age but you are an elderly man with regard to intelligence and wisdom. Mohammad Rafi, as your son in law, is your servant. You know, this fort and to deal with these three boys. It is your pleasure, either to favor them or to be dishonest. Your possesswordily honor and wealth, but you have to face difficulties at the day of resurrection.

Sher Khan, after Ali Shah's message was impressed. He was happy as well as painful and he was under state of emotion. His happiness was over. His eyes were like dry spectacles due to shedding of tears. Then he called his wazirs and revealed his secrets to them and benefitted by their suggestions. Hassan Qulee and Qasim and other competent three to four people came to him. Sher Khan related the whole event and they were very sad. First of ail, they were relating painful stories followed by hopeful happy events. They prayed that you may never miss power and pelf. The luck has always been in your favor and the doors of happiness are open. Now, you must invade Kartaksha country which is narrow like a grave. When you will enter state of Askardoo, we hope, that you will succeed. You should not

delay to conquer this prosperous country, lest others may surpass. When you will control fort, it is obligatory upon you to influence people, so that no one opposes you. When reins of Govt. are in your hands and you are well settled, then you have to be very strict. Mohammad Rafi is your son in law. It is not possible that he may disobey. But in case he expresses anything against your wishes, don't be so strict. Razi Khan and Doulat Khan are minors and don't disturb them.

Sher Khan's attack on Askardoo

Sher Khan encouraged by proposal of his wazirs, was relieved and ordered his army to be ready. Next day, he left for Askardoo from Kartaksha. When he arrived on Askardoo frontier, he was in deep thought about people, as to how they behave. In the meantime, he arrived below the fort. The people both old and young came out of fort and were crying. On seeing it, despite his hatred, he expressed grief. In the same position, he entered the fort. He concealed his vindictive nature by his sweet words. His fame as a noble ruler spread throughout country, and was praised everywhere. When he achieved his objective, he changed his policies, and took a U turn. He imprisoned Mohammad Beigh and others, who were supporters of late Murad Khan. He evicted many people who were living as refugees at Shagr.

Sher Khans expedition of Shagar

At last, when Sher Khan assumed govt. he followed his brother's policies of governance, and made preparations for invasion of Shagr. He forgot all his vows and had no respect for his religion. He assembled about ten thousand soldiers from

Kartaksha, Pooreeg, Klaplu, Borushaul, Gilgit and Kharboo and left from Askardoo.

From other side, Imam Qulee Khan, leading an army left like a tiger and ordered not to attack. Sher Khan, with no regard & respect for Allah and his Messenger and forgetting his vows, initiated war. From other side, the soldiers fought valiantly especially Hassan Mir, who created havoc to Askardoo people. Lontu was red through bloodshed. Gota, killed enemy soldiers like cutting of Pumpkin. Datole, Hassan Shamak, Mohammad, Qasim, Mera Khour Malik, Nakpu, Hassan Mohammad, Jarbaglo etc. were involved in bloodshed which created havoc among enemy soldiers. Faridon, Lajan, Jopla, Sher Barekh, Badshah, Qulee, Tarmata, Jum Qulee and Khan Bhadur Garg were like wild beasts in the battle field and killed Shamshad, Foulsad and Farhad. The battle was so fierce that it was blood everywhere.

The valiant people of Shagr defeated army of Askardoo and army of Sher Khan fled away like fox before Shagr tigers. In short, ten thousand soldiers returned back due to Shah Shagr's fear. But this defeat could not decide the future of war.

When it was night and it was dark from all sides, the brave soldiers of Shagr battle field returned towards their resting places. Next day, during sunrise, the preparations for war were in full saving. The Askardoo army were armed with swords and spears. The brave soldiers mounted on the top of a hill to stop enemy forces. They started looting villages. The village people tried their level best, but they failed to confront. When army dismounted from the mountain, all were sorry that enemy is out of bounds. Imam Qulee Khan was discouraged by enemy plans. The brave soldiers consoled him and told that they shall try once again and today night shall try once again and today night shall attack during night. During night they attacked Askardoo army but as per previous records, Sher Khan was successful.

When Sher Khan's relations with Imam Qulee Khan were disturbed, Imam Qulee Khan's noble's advised that Amir Khan be deputed to Karas, as he is acquainted with his country. If Sardar Khaplu comes with army, Amir Khan shall stop him. Raja liked this advice and he sent Amir Khan to Karas. He controlled Karas and blocked enemy route.

Babar's defeat by Amir Khan

Not much time has passed, that Babar leading his army appeared on the frontier of Karas. Amir Khan received him with sword and spears and imprisoned his one hundred twenty men soldiers. With this defeat, Babar became worried. He said, he hardly cares for defeat, but to keep his soldiers in enemy prison is against manliness. His wazirs said, why is he careful about prisoners? You save your life. In case you delayed your departure from here you will be arrested by Amir Khan. Babar sent a message to Sher Khan that he is frustrated with Amir Khan. He took toll of my army. Now, I am helpless. Neither I can face war nor could fleece. If you send army as reinforcement, there is a chance of safety.

Sher Khan immediately deputed army as reinforcement. In this way, Barbar returned back to his country. In the meantime, Amir Khan received message from Shagr, that Sher Khan has attacked and is camped at Kothang. Amir Khan left from Karas. When he arrived at Shagr boundary he saw countless army at Kothang, who have occupied the whole base of mountain. Amir Khan had no attenerative but to divert his route. He without any fear, holding sword in his hand, passed through enemy forces and attended Raja Shagr. When Sher Khan arrived at the habitation, he stayed there for two to three days. During this period he cleared all trees of country and changed

this green belt into a desert. On the fourth day, he alongwith his army entered Bonpiya. The valiant people of Shagr came to know about it and were ready to confront. Enroute they attacked Lashkar and were involved in bloodshed. During night there was silence all over. During night, Sher Khan had consultations with his supporters, that our whole Laskhar is not in good condition. They are all restless and Panicky. The people advised, that if a fort is constructed, there is at least no threat of sniping and at last shall control enemy. On this basis, Sher Khan laid the foundations of fort Boonpiya. Destroying rural population, army built fort within twenty days. The Shagr people revealed this whole story to Imam Qulee Khan and said, if fort is ready, it is difficult for enemy to move out of country. He said to his men that it is better not to involve ourselves in war at this juncture. The number of enemy forces is more than sufficient. Nothing can be achieved except bloodshed. For the time being, keep faith upon Almighty and manage your forces solidly. On an opportune time, we must try again. At last, we shall conquer, and enemy has to face the wall.

When fort was ready, the army of Askardo were happy that Almighty Allah has helped us. Now, there is no danger from enemy. We shall over power surrounding areas within few days. Sher Khan along with his army entered fort Bonpiya. The brave people of Shagr also left to wage war. Hussain Mir, Jopalla, Badshah Qulee, Mohammad Hussain, Bhadur Taqi, Karal Khan, Hatam Jain, valiantly. Gota, Najkho, watol, Hassan, Noor Ahmad, Rahim and Halbee attacked army like tigers. Hoorpankapo and Hinderpa also killed enemy soldiers. Gul Malik Narpa also killed enemy. Sokapa killed enemy by arrows and spears, Sannipa, killed enemy soldiers through swordplay. In short, the brave soldiers put every effort to defeat enemy and blocked all routes of exit for them. Many Rondoo men were captured and were beheaded by sword. When Sher Khan came to

know about murder of his men, he became mad and ordered for revenge. The Lashkar assembled again. One of the soldiers among them riding on a horse went ahead. It seemed as if he may destroy the whole Lashkar. He was shot by a bullet and fell down from horse. His all belongings were produced before Imam Qulee Khan. Bullets were rained in such a way that enemy became panicky and were forced to move towards their rest houses. On seeing this Slackness Sher Khan deputed Imam Qulee, to encourage Lashkar who strived very hard but the brave soldiers of Shagr overpowered them. The valiant soldiers of Shagr returned back after defeating enemy and arresting prisoners brought them alongwith.

Next day, Sher Khan's men lifted their dead bodies from battlefield and were crying bitterly. On seeing it, Sher Khan was also depressed. The people said, that you might have never witnessed such a scene anywhere. In this war, our whole army damaged. There is no fear of gun and sword with these people. Among them, one soldier can confront one hundred soldiers. Their riders look as if they are snakes for us. When we were fighting against them, we feel depressed and distressed. How can we fight against them and why to save our lives? On hearing it, Sher Khan became very sad and was apprehensive that I shall be imprisoned by enemy now, but in order to console his people, he said, that we must not fear from enemy's Lashkar. Success or failure is the custom of world. Time never remains alike. You don't worry. In future, we will defeat the enemy. I am going to arrange for Lashkar and shall teach a lesson to enemy.

Sher Khan deputed his men throughout his country, for sending army. Within few days fresh Lashkar, arrived in battlefield. Sher Khan said to them, to fight valiantly against enemy. One who brings dead head shall be awarded and one who fleece from battlefield, shall be beheaded. If you don't win this war, then I shall have to keep my head down. Enter silently

during night in Boonpia and kill enemy ruthlessly and take revenge for our brave soldiers.

One of Raja Shagr's supporters informed him, that it is the decision of your Khalu (Husband of mother's sister) that he has made speech before his Lashkar, while Imam Khan has been informed about the same. He immediately ordered his Lashkar to block enemy routes within night. Hassan Mir was deputed to Rondoo that he may block the route and in case of enemy forces, he shall confront. Taque and other valiant people were sent to Boonpia. Next day, both Lashkars were opposite to each other. Many soldiers of Sher Khan were killed and his forces were depressed.

The inhabitants of Imam Qulee Khan said to Imam Qulee Khan, that there is no doubt that you are very brave and courageous. There is no match for you. Your opinion is agreed subject to the condition that you don't want any government other than yours. We neither need Sher Khan nor Mohammad Rafi we shall remain faithful to you. There is no scope for two kings in one country. The Raja agreed these terms and people were satisfied.

Now all of them assembled at Kajeena and war ended. The goods were sent to Askardo by orders of Imam Qulee Khan. Imam Qulee of Askardoo informed Imam Qulee Khan about local conditions of Askardo and requested to call people from Tasik, so that we jointly fight against enemy. Information was conveyed at Tasik, while Hassan Mir and Sultan Khan arrived with their army. Raja said to Sultan Khan, that you shall command Askardoo people. Stay at Kajeena and keep vigil. Sultan Khan said, that I have no expectations from these people. I am ready to obey your orders, but some more men be associated with me. Therefore, Raja deputed one hundred soldiers.

From Askardoo some people had sent message to Sher Khan, that your brother Imam Qulee has joined your company. He has brought Mohammad Rafiq from Parkota, in order to subdue Askardoo people. Raja Shagr has brought army for his help, but people of Askardoo are not willing for it and all are waiting for you. If you come to this country, we shall destroy enemy and shall murder miscreants. Sher Khan became very happy by this news. Sher Khan demanded reinforcements from Youqub Shah. He sent army through Hatam Khan. Sher Khan came from Kartaksha to Rabiya. From there he arrived at Shagree. On seeing village vacated, he was frightened that conditions are topsy-turvy. When no one came from Askardoo, he was panicked.

Imam Qulee Khan received news about arrival of Sher Khan at Shagree and Hatam Khan has joined him from Khaplu. He is accompanied by five hundred soldiers only and they too are unarmed. Imam Qulee as disturbed came to Imam Qulee Khan. He consoled him, not to worry at all. It was my desire that enemy shall come so that they will be finished. Your own people invited them, but is after his own destruction. Neither he is strong enough to confront nor is there any safe route to fleece. There is bow other place other than graves for them. Perhaps, he is expecting that all people of Askardoo shall on their head, before him, otherwise, it was not possible that a fox can dare to attack lion.

When Imam Qulee listened this speech, he thanked him and said to make arrangements. Raja Imam Qulee Khan said, that there is no need to depute whole army. Only one battalion of army is sufficient for enemy. Bagutu, Sultan Khan, Hassan Mohammad, Satar Pa etc. with their brave soldiers were ready for war, in which there were not more than 125 gunmen. When army arrived at the spot, where Sher Khan was seated on a platform, the enemy force seemed to be less in number. On

seeing it, the Lashksar Askardoo, moved down from the hillock and seeking cover behind rocks, rained bullets on enemy. When there was no need to ambush, all soldiers rode on horses and attacked enemy. Among enemy, a soldier Kalmakee by name, was killed by a sword. The enemy soldiers were disturbed and many soldiers of enemy were killed.

Next day, there was again war. Amir Khan, Hassan Mir, Hatam, Imam Qulee, Abu-al-Fateh, Sher Dil, Mohammad Bagotu; Datoool, Gul Sangee, Meera Khur Malik and Sultan all, brave people left for war and arrived at Shagree, where Sher Khan was stationed. From morning till evening, they were desperately waiting for enemy to move out of his hideout. But no one from Sher Khan's side came to fore. Now people from Askardoo warned enemy, that you have come from Kartasha to our country and why are you hiding now. You were not aware about our might. Death has invited you here, otherwise Sher Khan could not dare to come here. On hearing, Sher Khan ordered his men to move ahead, but nobody followed his dictates.

Same conditions prevailed on the third day. Sher Khan declared openly, that those soldiers who shall leave for war, shall be killed by me. People assembled on a hill with guns and one division moved down, the hill. The Askardoo army observed that enemy has moved out, they without any delay attacked them. They fleece towards hillock. They were followed by Askardoo army. Three men were killed. People decided to attack enemy at a time and shall be kill them one by one and miscreants shall be imprisoned so that mischief is uprooted and there shall nothing to worry about, in future. But Imam Qulee Khan and Amir Khgan, avoided to do it and said, that at present, enemy is under our control. He shall in no way leave from here. There is no use of bloodshed and thereby there came an end to this war and people left towards their residences.

The news about war was continuously pouring in fort Askardoo through spies and people were disturbed and disheartened due to continuous defeats. There was scarcity of food inside the fort. Outside, people had laid siege and there was no exit for going out, to join Shere Khan. At last, Qsaim Khan proposed, that our patron is under enemy cordon. We can't provide him any help. It is better to initiate war from other side, with the opponents, so that Sher Khan is encouraged and enemy is depressed. Army shall be sent to Kajeena, to wage war against Shah Sultan. Therefore, army was sent to Kajeena from fort Parkota. Shah Sultan came to know about it and he came out of fort to fight. He was joined by brave Sookait. They confronted with opposite army and within one attack uprooted them. The army fled down from battlefield like stage who fleece on seeing hunter. Three to four men were shot dead by guns. Qasim Khan's son, who was involved in this fight, tried his level best, but all in vain and was wounded by a gunshot. But the enemy did not stop them. He carried him alongwith. When Qasim Khan witnessed such condition of his son, he wept bitterly. Imam Qulee Khan was informed about this news. He deputed some more reinforcements. When Shah Sultan saw this Lashkar, he was satisfied and said that I defeated enemy. Imam Qulee Khan was satisfied and thanked his Khalu. Sher Khan informed his brother Ali Shah at Rondoo, that Hatam Khan Khaplu alongwith his and Shagr army entered boundaries of Kavardu. The enemy forces are great in number, while our soldiers are less in number. It is very difficult to defeat them. In case my brother helps me at this juncture, there is hope of safety, otherwise, it is not possible to defeat enemy.

When Ali Shah listened to this message he was very angry and immediately ordered army to be ready. After assembling army, Ali Shah marched towards Askardoo. Imam Qulee Khan, received news that Ali Shah has left for his brother

Sher Khan's help and assistance. He deputed Dargappa with thirty four gunmen, to block Ali Shah's route. Afterwards, he deputed Ali Shah for his help and assistance. When these people arrived at Kasoor, they saw Ali Shah's Lashkar. A severe fight took place. Many men of Rodoo were killed. When Ali Shah observed, he had no alternative but to leave from there. He left from Kasoor and was making preparations that he shall leave from Beshu. But his supporters stopped him and told him that your brother is trapped by enemy. It is better for you, to leave. Imam Qulee Khan is famous for helping the deserved. When Sher Khan shall be disappointed from all sides, he shall have to obey Imam Qulee Khan and he will surely Pardon him and shall provide refuge to him. Both may become friends but Sher Khan will become your enemy, with the result, you will be ruined and your country shall be destroyed.

Ali Shah agreed with this proposal and said to his soldiers, that it is obligatory to reach Askardoo for helping Sher Khan. But enemy has blocked the route. How to reach Askardoo. People said, there is a hilly track, but it impossible for riders to go through, while it is easy to go on foot. Imam Qulee Khan's men were not aware about this route Ali Shah following this route joined Sher Khan.

When Imam Qulee Khan received this news, he was panicked. He consulted his commanders. The brave commanders said, that so long as they are alive they will confront enemy and shall never disobey you. We will always support you through thick or thin. Raja Shagr became very happy and awarded royal robes and presents to all of them. He ordered them to send Lashkar during night and Amir Khan, the commander of Army, shall try to reach Kokab on the same night. The Lashkar assembled at Narmain and during night, crossing river Sind, camped at Seeriko, in order to block the route of enemy forces. Among army two hundred soldiers were hiding at the base of a

mountain during night and in the morning they attacked enemy. The army had already blocked the entry and exit routes of enemy forces. There was so much bloodshed, that whole battlefield was all red, due to blood. About four hundred people were arrested as prisoners of war and the number of deaths was beyond count.

Next morning during sunrise, Amir Khan, commander of Army received the news about the conquest, that enemy soldiers have been killed and those who were safe were arrested. Booty in terms of weapons, Property and wealth was realised. When Raja Shagr received this news he became very happy and delighted. Later on, by the orders of Raja Shagr, a canal was dug out of Nala Satpar, in order to carry water upto a hillock. When water flowed over hillock, it eroded its soft clay and joined river. Within two weeks, the banks of river were dry and within three months a road was formed alongwith the hillock by the accumulated clay. In this way, the place wherefrom the inhabitants were carrying water, became dry and the inmates of fort suffered due to scarcity of water.

Later on, a tower was built on it and from here the soldiers were raining stones upon enemy soldiers. The gunmen also seated on this tower were firing bullets. But one more location for water was available with inmates of fort. But no success could be achieved by such acts. Imam Qulee came to Raja Shagr and said that one source of water belonging to enemy has been stopped by us, but the second source is available with them and if the same is under our control through any plan we can compel enemy to surrender. The plan is, that a boat be made ready which should have roof and walls like a house. Two to three windows be made in the boat, through which bullets shall be shot at the enemy. By this boat, the second source of water can be captured. A trench be made on the other side of river. When there will be attack from three sides, enemy will be forced to surrender. Therefore, this boat was built and plied in water.

The flow of river water was very swift. When it reached near the spot, the flow of river did not allow the boat to stop and moved it, towards a far off place. A Tower belonging to enemy was on river waters. When boat reached below the tower, the enemy rained stones and a plank of boat delinked. The men who were in the boat, fell down into river and after swimming reached the river bank. Only one man passed away and again a boat was built and attacks were made. At this time, the boat was stationed and the gunmen inside the enemy tower were silenced by the gunmen in the boat.

Amir Khan was a very wise commander. Raja Kars has handed him over the government of Kars. When he was informed that Imam Qulee Khan is determined to conquer Askardoo, he alongwith his army was ready to face enemy. In fort Kharkoo he deployed two to three commanders, with some soldiers, for security of fort and left himself to serve the Raja.

Due to this weakness of Kars Youqub Khan, tried to benefit. He wrote to Hatam Khan, you be ready to serve so that Raja Shagr shall be happy with you. You always boast about your courage before Raja Shagr. Raja Shagr has always put you in trouble. You won't expect anything from such people. If you have any sense of honor, dissociate from him without caring for relationship and join with me and Sher Khan. I shall offer you my daughter in marriage. You will be appointed as chief of Khaplu and some part of Khar. What more do you except than this? I shall reside at Haldee and shall leave whole kingdom to you. Sher Khan has been to Kashmir these days. When he returns back, to his kingdom, you will be successful. He will honor and reward you and shall defeat your enemies. At present, he is distressed. The enemy has captured his country and is destroying his supporters. But his forte is very solid and strong and there is no reason that enemy shall control it. If at this stage you will help us, you will be the Governor of Khaplu. Though,

your father has been killed by Murad Khan and you have suffered at the hands of Sherr Khan, but now be free from distrust. You are a soldier and you must take care about worldly affairs. There is no use of knowledge and literature for you. It is obligatory upon you, to think about rank and dignity, so that Govt. is in your hands. But there is a condition, to defeat the enemy and to control Kharpu, so that there are no doubts about you to me and all enemies of Sher Khan must be ashamed during his lifetime. Don't delay.

Hatam was enticed by this deceit and there were no doubts about Youqub Khan in his mind. He became disgusted with Raja Shagr and joined with his enemy. They keeping their hands on the holy book, made promises. Later on, Youqub Khan commanding a big force entered Khirtu. Hatam was also with them. Both of them fought with Shagr army. Since they were great in number, they laid siege of fort and attacking from all the four sides, conquered the fort. Amir Khan's whole army was killed here. When Imam Qulee Khan received the news, he was disturbed and in rage, said that by the grace of Almighty, I shall conquer Askardoo fort and shall uproot all enemies.

Reinforcements from Gilgit and Nagar

In the meantime, one young man informed Raja Shagr that reinforcements had come from Nagar and Gilgit. Raja became very happy. The Sardar attended His Highness and kissing thrown whatever gifts he had brought were offered and said, that Rahim Khan and Chalees Khan has sent a message, that we are grateful to your noble self that we were not happy at the hands of our opponents and were distanced from our nation and sons. You are kind enough to sent us to our country, for which we are very grateful to you. During this people, some period from Kashmir travelled fast and arrived at Raja Shagr.

They were in distressed condition. They expressed, that they had been to Kashmir with Sher Khan due to threat of their life. They came to know, that Mohammad Rafiq Khan came from Parkota and entered Askardoo with Imam Qulee Khan controlled entire country of Askardoo and suppressed opponents. With this news, we were very happy and came here without Sher Khan's consent. They stated before Raja Shagr that Sher Khan paid a fair amount of money to Nawab Kashmir and got release from prison by bribe. Enroute Sher Khan's people oppressed and due to loot and plunder Sher Khan succeeded. He has not more than few supporters. It is obligatory to arrest him in open and shall not be provided any time to wait. Because, if he enters Kartaksha, then it will be very difficult. He shall call reinforcements from Khaplu. Raja Shagr answered them, that such activities are not good. We don't believe in oppression and suppression. Because, it is our belief, that Almighty never bestows honor to anyone with such tactics. There is no threat from Sher Khan. On this basis, we don't want to create any revolt in the country. We don't want anything more than our share, because there is no use to crave for selfish things. Mohammad Rafi is panicked due to suppression by Sher Khan. We shall subdue Askardoo by his orders. We are not concerned with Sher Khan's Kartaksha. We don't believe in tyranny like him. In case, he confines himself to Kartaksha, we have no objection and neither we have any animosity till he had no intentions for Askardoo.

Then Raja called Imam Qulee and revealed the real story to him, that Sher Khan had entered Kartaksha. This news created panic. He shall call reinforcements from Khaplu and shall seek help from Youqub Khan. In this case, we have to make decisions. Imam Qulee said, that orders may be issued for assembly of Lashkar tomorrow and people be informed that one who will not participate in this congregation, shall be shot dead.

All shall assemble at Kajeena and weapons be sent to Askardoo. When such orders will be issued, there is no alternative for anyone but to follow. Therefore, arrangements were made as per schedule and messengers were sent throughout country for Lashkar. Within two days, Lashkar assembled at Sindoos. Raja said to them, that you have been called due to enemy intentions and enemy is determined to wage war against us. It is obligatory upon all of us to confront. In case, we stand united, there is no anxiety about enemy. It is learnt, that Sher Shah has arrived at Kartaksha and has requested Youqub Khan for reinforcements. We don't care for these disturbances, you will see the results within few days. By the grace of Allah, we will defeat the enemy. You don't want to fight. I don't want to involve you in war. To confront Sher Khan, my Lashkar is sufficient. I shall myself set him right.

People answered, that we are ready to serve you. Now it is our duty to fight with the enemy. How shall the enemy dare to equate himself with you. No body, can create any disturbance in Askardoo during our presence.

Raja said to Lashkar, that don't look down upon enemy, although he may be weak. The day when you confront enemy, take care about your honor and respect. People said, that you extolled Mohammad Rafi and destroyed his enemy. May Allah bless you, we are sincerely your obedient. We are even willing to jump into fire, if you order. Whosoever may defy your orders, we are ready to kill him.

On listening to these speeches, Raja Shagr pointing towards Mohammad Rafi Khan said, that never trust these people. Their all promises and vows are false. They are not kind. They saw, that we are ready for war, therefore they took an oath, because they had no alternative. It is obligatory upon you to again associate with me so that you will assume the thrown. Otherwisedon't hope that you will get both inheritance and the

country. You are aware about the treacherous nature of people. You are still a child. You have not gained any experience of world. The Youngman are not aware about the nature of work of old people. Whatever was necessary was revealed to you. You should act upon the advice of elderly people.

Mohammad Rafi answered that my two uncles have taken an oath upon Almighty. Besides, all noble's of my father's darbar have promised me, that they will not follow any government except me and shall never defy my orders. I believe them. I am sincerely grateful to you. I can't forget your kindness forever. Then he kissed Raja Shagr and made an excuse for his negligence. He alongwith his Lashkar marched towards Askardoo. Imam Qulee Khan, returned to Shagr from that place.

When Mohammad Rafi arrived at his destination, he circumambulated his father's grave. After completion of circumambulation, Sher Khan came to meet him. He kissed and hugged him and said that you solved my problem. You got me released from Paws of enemy. May Allah, bestow long life to you. You are my darling. There is no fool in the world, who will break his own legs. Now, whatever has happened, is over. I shall be pardoned. Your father's crown is for you and I am departing immediately for Kartaksha.

Then with great honor Mohammad Rafi Khan assumed thrown and people bowed their heads before him and took oath of allegiance to obey and follow. Sher Khan expressed his desire in such a way, all doubts were cleared between him and Mohammad Rafi. He became Patron of Mohammad Rafi. But it was all a pageant show. He was full of malice and hatred. At last, he like a snake did bite and imprisoned Mohammad Rafi Khan, Raja of Askardoo.

When Sher Khan imprisoned Mohammad Rafi Khan, the whole of Askardoo was under his control. Qasim was his wazir. He said to him, that in Kars IsmailMir is deputy. Amir Khan was

not present in the country at this time. Ismail Mir is already known to me. It is hoped, that he will accomplish his promises. You send an envoy to him and ask him to be present at Askardooo for Submission. In case he followed, I shall bestow honor to him and shall marry my daughter with his son. Next morning an envoy was deputed to Kars. Arriving there, he revealed the whole story to Ismail Mir. Like Adam, who was enticed by devil, Ismail Mir was deviating from the right Path of Allah and was determined to be dishonest. He replied to the messenger, that you go back soon and pay salams to Sher Khan from my side and tell him, that you are our King and I am your servant. Whatever I have promised, I shall follow it. I except lot from you. This relationship is great honor for me. It was accepted, that Sher Khan shall depute his wazir Qasim with the army. During night, he after crossing river, shall hide himself in a corner here and shall inform me. I shall come out of fort and people whom I doubt, shall accompany me and you will be invited to join us.

When Sher Khan listened to the reply of messenger, he was excited. During night, he deputed his Lashkar commanded by his wazir to Kars. But he was doubtful, that in case, if enemy cheats, we have to face odds. Therefore, he deputed an envoy to Ismail Mir so that he shall take stock of situation. If there are no apprehensions, efforts shall be made to conquer that country. When the messenger reached there, he was very happy. Ismail Mir said to messenger, come, I will show you so that you will be happy and there are no doubts from my side. Both entered the fort. The Envoy observed that he is strictly adhering to his decisions. His all people are very faithful and obedient and are always at his beck and call. When messenger observed such sincere attitude of Ismail Mir, he had all praise for him. It satisfied wazir Qasim and ordered that Lashker be sent and Kars be captured immediately. When this army reached Kars, Ismail

Mir as per promise opened door of fort and invited Qasim. He became his friend. In the morning the inmates of fort were surprised to see such conditions. They had no alternative, neither to stay nor to fleece, except obedience. Therefore, on seeing Qasim everyone was happy.

Among them, a faithful man, secretly fled away towards Shagr. On reaching Shagr, he revealed the whole story. When Amir Khan heard about this event he was disturbed. When Raja Shagr heard about disloyalty of Naib Kars and Sher Khan's control of Kars, he became sad. He called Amir Khan and said, you don't worry. If enemy deceived us, there will be no damage to us. The people who follow a right path, are really successful. They never feel any hardships. Beforehand, Sher Khan had invaded our country. At last, Almighty, has destroyed him. Now he has started to interfere in our matters. Wait for the decision of Almighty. He has to face defeat again. We are not concerned with this country. His wealth and property is prohibited for us. Now, there is no alternative for us but to fight, because a rock is the only remedy to kill Snake. In case, he suffers, we are not to be blamed. He will be punished due to his misdeeds. Only one has to wait, but to be involved in oppression is not our objective.

When Sher Khan captured Askardoo and Kars, he was soaring high. He sent message to Babar Khan that we have controlled Kars by force. Now, it is obligatory upon you, to be ready to invade Shagr, so that the Governor of that country shall be deposed and deported. With receipt of this message, leave alongwith your Lashkar towards us.

Barbar received this message and he replied that I am in a tight corner position due to my enemy. The fear of Ladakhi Bodh's is never out of my mind, because they have more army and my country is touching their boundaries. The three sons of Rahim Khan in my country are mischief mongers and these days all of them are against me. Raja Shagr has sent many envoys to

me so that I shall move of my country. Immediately my country shall be attacked. However, I am sending some army for assistance.

Sher Khan received this message and became aware about facts. The spy of Shagr, also informed Raja Shagr, that enemy is again determined to attack you. Be aware and arrange for your safety and security. Raja Shagr called Amir Khan and other advisors and said, that the wicked man had again invaded Shagr. He has sent a man to Babar, to send Lashkar as reinforcement, who has informed that he is disturbed due to Raja of Ladakh. My country is touching their borders. In case, I move out of my place, I shall be destroyed. Besides, he has said, that three sons of Rahim Khan are present in my country, who are hell bent to oppose me. For these reasons, he has deputed few soldiers to suppress enemy forces. His Lasahkar has set pout from Khaplu. It is obligatory upon us, that we shall dig a pit fort that malignant and enroute shall arrest him.

Amir Khan and other brave men replied, you be sure, we are ready for your service and defence. It is not prudent to wage war with enemy at this time. It is better, that Mohammad Rafi be subdued by deceit. We must make friendship with him in such a manner, that he shall have no doubt about us and shall call you back in your boundary.

When it was agreed, they followed according to plan and both went to meet Mohammad Rafi. On reaching there, they expressed that since you were out of sight, we feel very lonely and restless. We thank Almighty Allah who enabled us to meet you. On seeing your face, we feel overjoyed. Now we are at your back and call. We are ready to sacrifice our lives for you, so that you may not face odds. The enemy has submitted before you. We congratulate you for the crown you assumed after your father. Raja Shagr must now return from his country. The honor of that king is obligatory upon us. It is due to his luck that you

controlled your country and enemy faced defeat. Now it is obligatory that we must adore him and shall follow Namaz. We are keeping the Holy Book, in between. After mutual agreements, everybody shall strive for you and shall help you. All friends and foes shall deem it as honor to serve you. When Mohammad Rafi listened to it he was extremely happy. He called all his Lashkar and with all carefulness attended Raja Shagr's darbar.

Later on, Sher Khan left his soldiers at Kartaksh and accompanied by few people marched ahead. On arriving Pooreeg, he disappeared. Nobody paid any attention towards him. He was very healthy but appeared to be sick.

It is perhaps that period, when in 1075 Hijra, Nawab Saif Khan by the orders of Almgahir, the Emperor of India, deputed Mohammad Shafi to warn Weldon Nemgail, Raja of Ladakh. As per Shagr Nama, the statement starts with the letter, which perhaps was drafted by commander of army to Babar. It is as follows.

By the grace of Allah, I arrived at Pooreeg. Now I shall kill infidels. Those Muslims who were imprisoned by Raja of Ladakh, shall be released and shall uproot all infidels. In case, they embrace Islam, they shall be let free. I am determined for Jihad, to achieve the blessings of Allah. I have also called Sher Khan, to join royal forces. He has sent his reply, that he is coming to serve us. Now both brave men must march towards me for Jihad, so that we jointly shall uproot miscreants. I am not familiar with this route, therefore both of you shall come along with army to help me. In case, we conquer by the help of our supporters, they will be awarded and promoted. I shall not perform any such activity, which may be against their interests. You must feel satisfied from my side. You will always be in gain with my association. I will never discourage and disappoint you.

When Sher Khan came to know about it, he was very happy. He had brought a piece of crystal glass from Askardoo, which was transparent like pearl. He offered this valuable pearl to Nawab, who became very happy and handed over it to Ali Qulee Khan. Sher Khan was deputed for Ladakh expedition. After return from Ladakh, Sher Ali Khan was called to Kartaksha and built a place at Goole. Who was this Ali Qulee Khan is unknown?

During Sher Khan's Ladakh attack an event as per traditions is that after managing Chigthan and Bodh Kharbo, Sher Khan marched towards Ladakh and looting areas, he arrived at Mongang. Damaging the fort of this place, he reached Bazgo and destroyed the fort of this place also and whatever property he looted, he returned to Askardoo, enroute wah and Hano. When he reached, Garkono people told him, that whatever wealth and material he has looted if carried to your country, shall not prove favorable. It is better for you to return them to Bodh's secretly. According to second tradition, that on reaching Garkono, due to selfishness, that a part of this booty shall be concealed without information to anyone so that the same may not be distributed among the army. Later on, he shall spent it for his personal use. But whatever may be the reason, it is said, that Sher Khan concealed this material on right bank of river Sind between Garkono and verchekas rocky route. When people who concealed the material, were returning back. They lost their lives by jumping in the river and in this way, the seeret of this treasure is a mystery. The rock where this treasure is supposed to be concealed, is called as "Makpoon Eee Secra" that is treasure of Makpoon. It is possible, that later on, Sher Shah might have taken the treasure secretly or might have been possessed by some others. I visited that place, but I could not find any mark about this treasure. After this expedition, the "Shagr Nama" records:

Raja Ladakh was very perturbed and disappointed by the acts of Sher Khan. He sent an envoy to Shagr, with the request that he is sorry for his mistake. Sher Khan has disappointed me very much. I never saw such a deceit in my whole life. I hate him from core of my heart. I feel ashamed with his relationship and I shall never forgot it. I damaged his whole army. Now, it is my desire that you marry your with son with my daughter and in this way, cement our association. Then, we jointly shall uproot these miscreants.

Shah Shagr replied, that a rock cannot change into diamond, but friendship is a good thing at any cost. It can be encouraged without making relationships. Raja Ladakh, disappointed from Raja Shagr, attacked Khaplu to help Hatam Khan.

When his army invaded, Muslims were Panicked and Youqub Khan was distressed. But through strategy, he evicted Ladakhis from his country. Hatam came to know about it. He said to Youqub, why you evicted our army from your country. Don't you know about the power of my Khalu and performed this act. Youqub Khan replied, don't be proud of your inefficient Khalu. The oppression by Ladakhi's pained me, therefore, I parted ways from Gayalpo. Hatam was very happy and encouraged Youqub that he evicted Ladakhis from his country. They were determined to kill you so that they shall install Hatam Khan to control Khaplu.

With this secret, Youqub was very angry with Hatam and he made preparations to conquest Hatam. He assembled his Lashkar at Saling border and laid siege of fort Saling. War started and defeating fort people, captured it. From here he marched towards Haldee. Hatam with his army came out of fort. On seeing it, Youqub, ordered his army to arrest Hatam. A great bloodshed took place. Hatam was defeated. Youqub's army controlled fort happily and breaking its door went inside and

were engaged in loot and plunder. Hatam attacked from behind and Youqub's army was forced to leave the fort. With this defeat, Youqub returned back to Khaplu.

Due to Youqub's uproar, Hatam thought, that my Khalu, with all his strategy accepted obedience of Raja Shagr. If I also follow him, it will be better for me. It will create fear among my enemies. With this plan, he deputed his experienced wazir to Raja Shagr, with a message, to pardon me. I was not following you till date. But the reality is, that it is due to your kind self that I achieved inheritance of my father. I was associated with that selfish Gayalpo of Ladakh till date. Penitence is even accepted by Almighty Allah. You will please forgive me. Do forgive me for sake of Khalu. Now, I am your obedient. In case, I deviate from it I shall be considered as infidel. Raja Shagr forgave Hatam and said, that I am your guide. You don't worry. Now, you have relinquished idols and followed Allah. I am your sincere friend.

With this Youqub was shaky. He also entreated Raja Shagr, to take care about him like his children and protect me from suppression of infidels. Raja Shagr replied, that you shall not feel ashamed due to defeat by Hatam. Nobody is selfish to capture your country, subject to the condition, that you too do not want to invade any other country. Greed creates all bad situations. In this way, Khaplu disturbances were over.

Ahmad Mir was Raja of Kars. He had two sons, one Amir Khan and other Hatam Khan. He had divided his kingdom in two parts. Amir Khan, was controlling a part of Kars and Hatam Khan was Governor Korov. These divisions were unequal and therefore, both were not in good terms with one another. They complained to Raja Shagr. Hatam Khan arrived Khaplu for seeking help. Raja Shagr in order to arrest unjust father, invaded Kars and laid its siege. As a result, Amir Khan was handed over the demanded fort and his complaints were redressed. Now both

brothers thanked Raja Shagr and Raja was very cordial with them.

When Amir Khan died at Kharkoo his brother Hatam Khan, angry with Imam Qulee Khan joined Sher Khan. Now, he in association with Sher Khan attacked fort Korov. Mir Malik was the Garrison commander. Sher Khan was not so powerful to defeat Malik and therefore, returned high and dry. Later on, this garrison commander was transferred from this fort. At this time, the spy informed that time is appropriate to attack. During night Hatam Khan commanding army, attacked. People were in deep slumber, but were waiting for Hatam Khan. On his arrival, every one received him warmly and obeyed. When Hatam Khan controlled fort, he released the garrison commander of Raja Shagr and said that I am obliged to Raja. Till I am alive, I will never forgot his obligations. I was only in search of my inheritance which I received and I don't need more than that.

Raja came to know about these disturbances and he set out to invade Hatam Khan. He called Mohammad Rafi and army leaving Shagr camped at Nar. Imam Qulee Khan, stayed at Kharpochoy in order to carry out siege. Behram and Hassan were deputed to subdue Hatam Khan. On their arrival, they ordered that the crops of the fields be uprooted and there shall be no traces of trees on the land surface.

When Sher Khan came to know about it, he set out from Kartaksha alongwith Lashkar and camped at Parkota. He ordered, that Aziz Khjan and Qasim shall assist Hatam Khan. They arriving Korov, cordoned one side. Hatam Khan was satisfied with this arrangement. After some days Kartaksha army attacked Shagr Kashkar. It is a severe battle. Both parties fought valiantly and at last, Sher Khan's Lashkar was defeated.

Qasim Khan was pained by this event. He sent message to Sher Khan through an experienced elderly man, that we cannot defeat enemy in the battlefield. It is better, that Ali Qulee

Khan shall be deputed, who will control enemy due to intelligence and people of Shagr, may favor him. Therefore, Ali Qulee Khan arrived at the battlefield. He sent message to Lashkar Shagr, that one who joins us, shall be rewarded with gifts and presents and one who fights, shall be killed. The spies conveyed this message to rank and file and especially to Lashkar Shagr. What happened later on, is not recorded in Shagr Nama.

Imam Qulee Khan had not been successful to conquer the fort Kharpochay. The inmates of fort continued war for seven months and were fighting with courage. But, when there was shortage of food, they lost their courage and were in deep trouble. The besieged soldiers said to Qasim, that you are the deputy of Sher Khan in this fort. We are suffering for want of food. You go to Imam Qulee Khan, so that you and we are safe and also take Sher Khan alongwith you. It is in our interests, otherwise we are all ready to submit before Imam Qulee Khan. On seeing such state of affairs, Qasim immediately rushed out of fort and arrived at Sher Khan's place during night and related whole story. Sher Khan became very sad by listening these facts. When Ali Shah came to know about it, he also came to Sher Khan and said what is the problem? When whole story was related to him, he too became sad. After deep thoughts, Ali Shah said to Sher Khan, I have no grudge against Raja Shagr. I am not against him. But if you agree with me, I shall be ready to mediate between you and Raja Shagr. Sher Khan replied, that I cannot deny your proposal. Ali Shah said, that first of all I shall depute my own man to Raja Shagr to test. In case, he responses in affirmative, I will myself go to meet him.

After consultations, Ali Shah called a wise man and said, "you go to Raja Shagr". First of all pay Salams from our side and then tell him that your Khalu Ali Shah is eager to meet you. He has not committed any mistake. If your second Khalu is your enemy, I shall be taking his responsibility. Sher Khan is sorry for

his dealings. Now, he is not after war and is seeking for arbitration. It is better to forgive him. I shall myself be the arbiter. I hope, you will accept my invitation. Sher Khan is your Khalu and it is pertinent to be kind with Khalu. Mohammad Rafi is a child. If you made him powerful you can't expect any good from him.

This man went to Raja Shagr and related whole events. Raja answered, that I am willing for arbitration. I am determined to wage war. You oppressed Mohammad Rafi and snatched his property. I shall handover fort Kartaksha to Sher Shah, but the fort of Mohammad Rafi's father shall be owned by Mohammad Rafi. Therefore, there is no need of further discussions. When Ali Shah received this message, he was silent.

Sher Shah got disappointed and became sad. Under such disturbed conditions, he called Ali Shah and said, that I am in a tight corner position here. My family is not with me. Neither I am aware about them nor are they aware about me. I am very sad in this behalf. Ali Shah replied, that you must not worry about such things. You call your wazir and he shall advice you. Qasim came in and asked that what is your idea about this matter? Qasim replied, there is no need to worry. I shall manage the whole situation. I shall provide food to Lashkar. Hunger will be over and there will be no danger at all.

Sher Khan was satisfied with Qasim's reply. During night, Qasim called forty Laborers and sent food grains. Within night, this caravan reached at the base of mountain. Arriving at Marpal, they were arrested by enemy. Some men were killed, some others. Imprisoned and some fled away during darkness of night. The food stuffs were possessed by enemy. When Sher Khan came to know about it, he was in rage. However, Imam Qulee Khan became very happy by this event and he appreciated his men for their bravery.

There was shortage of food in fort and Sher Khan's Lashkar was perturbed. Aziz Khan and his men, went to search for food. After great struggle they received two to three bags of food grains at Bagh-e-Godo. But, when it was distributed among nine hundred men, each men got not more than one seer of food grains. They could spent two to three days with this stock, then again they were hungry. When there was no hope for food grains, they were disappointed. Aziz Khan said to his men, that now you must do something for yourselves. People said, wherefrom shall we get food grains. Aziz Khan said, that you should attack Khajeena. People travel from Sandoos on this route. It is possible, that we can receive some food grains from them.

Some men left the fort with the hope of bringing food grains. They shall lie in ambush enroute and shall snatch foodgrains. In the meantime, a man passed by that side with load of flour. These people came out of their hiding places and attacked him. This man crying loudly fled towards his companions. People from Sindooos came for his help and took back flour from those hungry men. They began to fight and some people among the parties died. Some people also suffered inside the fort. Aziz Khan was sad for his bad luck, that there was nothing except defeat for him.

To whom Allah bestows honor, no one can snatch him and one who is destined for disgrace, no one can change his luck. Sher Khan is a traitor and invited trouble. He did not kept his promise which resulted in his disgrace. He encroached property of his supporters and tried to tease poor people. When he suppressed his subjects Almighty is all powerful to disgrace him. The man should always be true to his salt. Sher Khan wanted to damage Rafi Khan's country, with the result, that he himself had to face odds. Shewr Khan as a cruel man, interfered

Imam Qulee Khan's country. Both of them jointly disgraced Sher Khan.

When people were suffering for want of food in the fort, Sher Khan consoled people by lame excuses, but hollow promises are of no use. When he decided to wage war, he faced defeat. Now he is hopeless from every quarter. He called Ali Shah and said that he is engulfed by enemy from every side. Neither is there any route of escape nor is power to confront. Now, how to be out of enemy trap. Ali Shah replied, that you send Qasim to Raja Shagr with the request, that much has been done. I feel ashamed due to my activities. Don't be after my murder and take pity upon my children. If they will be informed about my killing, they will bury themselves alive. I am handing over fort Kharpochay to you and shall remain faithful to you forever. Send my family from the fort so that they shall support me. Ali Shah motivated Sher Khan, that Qasim is your trustworthy man. He shall go with this message to Raja Shagr. It is expected that he may agree. You are famous for telling lies and lie has no legs to stand upon. You have always followed lie and were making success through lies. Now, your tongue is not credible. In case, you don't agree with me, there is no hope, that you will free from the claws of Raja Shagr.

Sher Shah listened passionately and came to his senses. He called Qasim and related the whole event. He was very sad due to this disgrace but he was hopeless. He left with the message. When Raja Shagr came to know about it he called his darbar. All important people of Govt. and commanders of army assembled. When Qasim was present, he was feared due to magnificence and dignity. When he was allowed to speak, first of all he licked Raja Shagr's hoofs and then Rafi Khan's. after adoring Imam Qulee, Babar and Amir Khan, he related the message of Sher Khan.

Afterwards, the chain of events discontinued, but the events followed, relate that Mohammad Rafi was settled at Askardoo. Afterwards, Shagr Nama relates, which perhaps is record of Sher Khan's second attack of Askardoo, during which Mohammad Rafi had been to Shagr as refugee and Sher Khan had tried for his surrender and Behram was deputed to Shagr as an envoy.

Raja Shagr listened to Behram's request. Pointing towards Mohammad Rafi, he said, that your enemies shall always remain your obedient. Listen to me, you will be free from worries. Don't be motivated by sweat tongue of Behram. If you fall under control of your enemies, Behram is in no way concerned, at all. His father is so cunning that by witchcraft he makes hundred branches out of a single hair. He will surely release his son from enemy's paws, but you will be killed like a pumpkin. Whatever, I have to say, I said due to affection. Truth is always bitter but the results are always fruitful. If you act upon my advice, be ready for war and defeat, the enemy and enter Askardoo with grandeur and magnificence.

Mohammad Rafi listened to him. He was excited. He replied, that at present, I am in pitiable condition. If you will help me, I shall succeed. God may repay you for the same. The Raja consoled him and said, whatever is possible, I shall try my best to help you.

Raja ordered army to be ready and Askardoo be invaded. The Lashkar marched towards Askardoo. Amir Khan, Hassan Mir, Sultan Khan, Hatam Vatole Bagotu, Hassan, Banupa Mohammad, Gul Malik, Gul Sangay, Taque, Sunnee Pa Bhadur, Hamza, Faridoon, Padshah Quilee, Sultan Qulee, Tarm Nai, Sher Barikh Togan, Fsarhad and Jehanghir were leading the Lashkar. They were followed by Raja Shagr with dignity and honor. On his right side was Mohammad Rafi and Behram was on his left side. With grandeur and magnificence, Raja Shagr entered

Askardoo boundaries. The battle field was full of soldiers and enemy forces discouraged. When night passed and sunlight was visible, Imam Qulee sent an envoy to Raja Shagr that you have saved our darling. One who helps orphans, God helps him. You are most welcome. If we might have committed some mistake, please forgive us. Now, don't delay. At this juncture if you help and support, then Mohammad Rafi is successful. You can come without any hindrance and save us from this oppression. If you don't believe us, we can take an oath on Holy Quran, to assure you, that we will not deceive you.

Raja Shagr after listening the message from envoy, said to Behram, you heard the message of your Baba. He replied, that there is nothing against in it. Enemy cannot confront Raja Shagr. All are waiting for you. When you will arrive at the destination, whole population will be present to receive and obey you. Raja ordered, that Lashkar may enter Askardoo. On seeing this army, Sher Khan lost his control and was in six's and sevens.

Sher Khan's brother (Perhapes Imam Qulee) brought this message to Raja Shagr. Allah may help you in every activity and you may achieve your objective. Please, be quick, so that enemy shall be discouraged. Bring Mohammad Rafi alongwith we are your obedient and are desperately waiting for you. Though Sher Khan is our own brother, but we are fed up with his activities. I was in a position to confront him, therefore, I am silent till date. He is more interested in oppression and suppression and is always teasing poor and helpless people. He arrested orphans and innocent Mohammad Rafi and teased relatives. I stopped him from these bad activities, but it resulted in opposite that he became my enemy. When Mohammad Rafi released from his control, I was satisfied. One who believes in suppression, has to face disgrace. He without any reason entered your country. He was an evil and therefore, was in a tight corner position. Now, it is time to trample the head of enemy. He is no match for you in

power. In case, he involves himself in war, he will be defeated. By the grace of Allah, you and Mohammad Rafi have joined hands. Now, kill the enemy. It is an opportune time and don't lose this opportunity.

When Raja read this letter his joy know no bounds. Pointing towards Behram he ordered, that you leave alongwith Lashkar. He said, that by your grace, we will evict enemy from fort Askardoo, like devil from heaven. We may arrive below the fort during evening but on the condition, that Mohammad Rafi shall be with us, because without him, there is no trust upon people to submit. During morning you will also march and during that period we will keep Lashkar ready and by the grace of Allah, shall control the enemy.

Raja agreed to his proposal. The Lashkar left with Behram. When army entered boundaries of Askardoo every rank and file assembled to greet and on seeing Mohammad Rafi Khan, were happy. Lashkar was marching on. In the meantime, Imam Qulee Khan and Sultan Khan also joined Lashkar. They hugged Mohammad Rafi Khan and all difficulties were over. In the meantime Imam Qulee Khan also arrived for help and all of them jointly laid siege of enemy forces.

On seeing such conditions Sher Khan was shedding tears of blood. He was trapped and there was no way to get himself out of this trap. He called his wazir and said, now I am under control of enemy and everything is topsy-turvy. Now, what to do? The wise wazir said if you boast at this time you are lost. Now, you should be sincere, otherwise you won't save yourself. If you intend to wage war, success is impossible because the war conditions are not in your favor and it is better to save life. On listening to wazirs's advice, he came to his senses. He sent an envoy to Raja Shagr, oh, my darling, you are the flower of my garden. Man you always prosper and your enemies may always face defeat and disgrace. If by chance, I might have committed a

mistake, forgive me. I am at fault. Now, please Pardon me, because Almighty also forgives after repentance. Take pity my small children and save me from Mohammad Rafi pleas don't make my children orphan. Save me from wrath of enemy. If you forgive me, I shall leave to Kartaksha straightaway. I am ready to leave the fort, subject to the condition that I shall not be treated badly. I have full faith upon you, because you are not a deceptor. I am vindictive and callous. If you support me at this odd time and will relieve me from this misfortune, I assure you, that I shall always obey and abide you till my last breath and shall always be at your back and call to carry on you orders. In case, I deviate from these commitments, I shall face devil on the day of resurrection.

The Envoy related the message and started a new story. Imam Qulee Khan's mood was off. He forgot to take revenge and was inclined to oblige them. He pointing towards Mohammad Rafi said, the man who shall follow evil be punished by Allah.

This statement comes to an end at this place. It is evident that Sher Khan was provided an opportunity to leave towards Kartaksha, as per conditions and fort Kharpochay was controlled by Mohammad Rafi Khan and the disturbances by Sher Khan at Askardoo were silenced

Death of Ali Khan and Babar

Afterwards, the conditions at Khaplu reveal, that when Ali Khan died after his illness Babar also passed away due to illness. When Raja Shagr received this news, he became very sad. He ordered, that this man eater fort be set ablaze to destroy.

Conspiracy of Sher Khan with Raja Ladakh

When Buddhists of Ladakh, did not follow their agreements and decided to wage war, Sher Khan became very happy. He deputed an envoy to Raja of Ladakh, that I am your friend and sympathizer and so long I am alive, I shall be your, servant but subject to the condition that you will marry your daughter with my son. If you accept this marriage, the whole of Tibet shall be under your control.

The envoy carried the letter and related all internal conditions. Raja Ladakh, called his wazirs and Advisors and related Sher Khan's letter to them. All big and small in one voice congratulated him. Raja Ladakh said to the Envoy, that long live the king. I accept your relation by heart.

When Envoy returned back from such long journey and happily related the reply of Raja Ladakh. On hearing it, Sher Khan became excited and his joy knew no bounds. Arrangements were ready for marriage. He sent his son to Ladakh to ceremonize marriage. But at the same time, Sher Khan, requested for ten thousand soldiers to Raja Ladakh, for destruction of Askardoo and Shagr and destroying his enemies shall assume the thrown. When Raja Ladakh listened to this message from envoy, he felt ashamed.

In the meantime, people of Askardoo approached Imam Qulee Khan and Raja Shagr, to complain against Mohammad Rafi Khan. He after listening them, replied that whatever suppression you have faced, you must express it. By the grace of God, your grievances shall be redressed. People requested, that we are ready to sacrifice for you. The first thing for which we are sad and aggrieved is that we don't see your son (perhaps Sher Khan). He is distanced from his near and dear ones. We

can't bear this tragedy. The second oppression is wheat @ five Tarks per house is realized from us, which is too heavy.

Raja Sagar secretly called Imam Qulee, Rafi Khan and Shah Sultan and advised them, that you know, that the king who believes in oppression, shall have to face bad luck. The ancient kings were not cruel and were interested in Public affairs, because people are roots and king is the Tree. A tree is strong due to its strong roots. You and enemy both are strong. Oppression has reached to such a limit, that you have to avoid it and motivate your people to be your favorites. In case, you dilly-dally in this behalf there is no alternative for your welfare. You have joined hands with me, with the result that enemy is helpless and hopeless. Whatever agreements have been made, I stand by that. I shall strive against enemy but public is against you due to your cruel nature. You have to make arrangements for that. It is not good, that you may place thorns in your own route.

On listing to the advice of Raja Shagr, they plied, oh! King Till sky is above earth, you will live long. Whatever you order, we are ready to follow it, whole heartedly. We can't deviate from your orders. Raja Shagr assured people and they returned back.

Sher Shah -1680-1710 A.D.

Mohammad Rafi Khan 1710-1745 A.D.

During civil war and battles against foreign countries, a great revolution took place in both Tibet's and Pooreeg. During this period Sher Shah, was governing Kartaksha as well as Askardoo from about 1680-1710 AD, but civil war continued. At last, the result of this war, was that Mohammad Rafi Khan in about 1710 AD satisfied from his enemy Sher Khan, controlled Askardo. Sher Khan was confined to Kartaksha and settled there.

Hatam Khan was famous throughout Khaplu and flushed out the enemy. Amir Khan established his Govt. at Kars and Imam Qulee Khan, was continuously settled at Shagr. During this period, Ali Shah controlled Rondu while Shah Sultan administered Astore.

During that period, the tradition of divorce was common at Askardoo. Mohammad Rafi Khan, in order to check divorce, imposed one tola of gold as tax. It was called as Rafi Khanee Tolo and people who follow traditions, strictly adhere to it till date.

After Ali Shah Inchen, Mohammad Murad, Murad Khan, or Shah Murad, by which he became famous later on, was powerful and a wise Raja of Askardo whose rule extended upto Dardistan. During 1894 AD, when I was in Gilgit, people had all Praise for Shah Murad, Sher Shah and Ali Shah due to their remarkable achievements. Shah Murad has made developments in the internal affairs of the country. He brought Sculptures, Goldsmiths and cobblers from India and Kashmir and settled them at Askardoo. The Marble which was used in old royal buildings is still present in the ruins of these structures and he is credited to have used marble first of all. The rock which lies above Kharpochay, has a fort built by him. and is named Doongee Khar. Fort Korov has also been built by him.

During this period due to mutual relations of Tibet Minor with Kashgar on one side and Kashmir and Hindustan on other side, has developed as a civilized society for Baltistan at that time was regarded excellent and its imprints still exist till date despite of great revolution. In short, Ali Sher Khan Inchen and Shah Murad etc. brothers in Askardo. Imam Qulee Khan in Shagr and Hatam Khan in Khaplu have been the extra ordinary rulers of Baltistan.

UNIT- THIRD

DECLINE OF ASKARDO GOVT.

**Sultan Murad, Raja Askardo
1745-1780A.D.**

After Mohammad Rafi Khan his son Sultan Murad became Raja of Askardoo. An important event of his era in 1193 Hijra (1779 AD) was attack on Askardoo by Haji Karim Dad Khan, Sobedar Kashmir. In Hassan Shahs "Tarikh-e- Hassan" and Fauq's "Tarikh-e-Kashmir" it is recorded that he deputed Murtaza Khan for conquest of Askardoo, who after great struggle by Raja Murad Khan (i.e; Sultan Murad) defeated the Governor of Askardo and after receiving penalty, was successful. The Nazim Soba, submitted "Fateh Nama" to Timur SAhah who in turn for this service, awarded the title of Shuah-ul-Mulluck to him.

**Govt of Azam Khan Shagr
1780-1785 A.D.**

After some time, Azim Khan, Raja Shagr was inclined towards territorial aggrandizement. Due to Afghan war, the economic conditions of state were weak. Azam Khan benefitted from it and for sake of arbitration, Sultan Murad the brother in law of Azam Khan, to Shagar and made the arrangements that when he may arrive between river Shagr, he will be drowqned in the river. Therefore, between Kawaedu and Shagr during crossing river Shagr after drowing him in river, Azam Khan made

accession of Askardoo with Shagr and appointed Moonay Ali as Kharpoon (Governor) of Askardoo.

At that time, Mohammad Zaffar Khan son of Sultan Murad Zaffar Khan was a minor. He absconded towards Pooreeg and lived for five to six years there as refugee. During that time, Azam Khan, Raja Shagr's brother Ali Khan and wazir Mohammad who have on a diplomatic mission to Yarkand returned enroute Ladakh. At Pooreeg they met Zaffar Khan. He related his tale of woes and conditions of Baltistan to them. They extended sympathies with this oppressed boy. But due to long journey, they were in hopeless condition and were short of travelling expenses. Zaffar Khan too had no resources. They were in stringent need. Therefore, Ali Khan sent his companion wazir Mohammad to Zaffar Khan's father Sosopa at Askardoo to get some money. Sosopa instead of helping arrested wazir Mohammad and presented him before Kharpoon Ali who informed Azam Khan at Shagr. He arrived at Askardoo and killed wazir Mohammad in Seka maydan and after arresting Zaffar Khan and Ali Khan called them from Pooreeg. Zaffar Khan was imprisoned in Moonkhar of Shagr and exiled his brother Ali Khan towards Nagar.

Mohammad Zaffar Khan Raja Askardoo 1785-1787 A.D.

Azam Khan's Rani Fakhur-ul-Nisa the sister of Sultan Shah, was quite angry due to murder of her brother and destruction of her father's family. Therefore, She got village of Kawarda as mehr and divorce from Azam Khan. She planned to revenge Azam Khan for his bad deeds. Therefore, she in association, with Wali, who was maternal brother of wazir Mohammad and Fakhur-u-Nisa son, Sulaiman's foster father,

revolted and Azam Khan was killed. Sulaiman, who was yet a minor was appointed as Raja Shagr, while Wali was appointed as his wazir and patron. Mohammad Muzzafar was released from prison and assumed the thrown of Askardoo and began to rule Askardo with success.

Ali Sher Khan –II

1787-1800A.D.

After Mohammad Zaffar Khan his son Ali Sher Khan II became the ruler. He separated the area of Partkota from Kartaksha and annexed it with Askardoo and awarded this area to his young son, Gulam Shah for subsistence.

During that period after death of Hassan Khan in Shagr, ther was tussle for sucession between Qulee Khan and Azim Khan. Qulee Khan was nephew of Ali Sher Khan. He supported Qulee Khan, while Azam Khan was defeated. He arrived at Khaplu. Qulee Khan ruled for nine years. During that time, Azam Khan with support from Khaplu attacked Qulee Khan, who fled towards Askardo. Qulee Khan came with reinforcements from Askardoo and defeated Azam Khan and recaptured country. Later on Azam Khan again brought reinforcements from Khaplu. Defeating Qulee Khan, he controlled Govt. of Shagr. These battles shook the basis of Askardo, Khaplu and Shagr Govt.s.

Ahmad Shah

1800-1840 A.D.

After death of Ali Sher Khan, his elder son, Ahmad Shah became Raja. At that time, Azam Khan , Raja of Shagr, had

passed away who was succeeded by his son Haider Khan as Raja.

Ahmad Khan, under the command of his nephew Abdal Khan attacked Khaplu. The people of Khaplu had attacked Partkota. Mehdi was Governor of Khaplu of that time, who with help and support of Raja Ladakh exiled his two brothers, Doulat Ali Khan and Mohammad Shah and imprisoned them at Nobra. Mehdi defeated Abdal Khan and imprisoned Abdal Khan alongwith commanders of his army. Abdal Khan was sent to Nobra. Ahmad Shah was pained by this incident and he strived hard for release of his prisoners through diplomatic missions. Mulla Jaber Resident of Kars was appointed for the said mission and promised that in case, all prisoners are released, I shall never try to interfere above Poong Nakpadee. But Mehdsi totally refused to release prisoners. Again Ahmad Shah deputed Mulla Jaber to Mehdi with the message that if Abdal Khan is released from prison, I am ready to pay gold equal to his weight but with no success. But Mehdi killed Abdal Khan in prison.

Mehdi had imprisoned Abdal Khan at Taneyar in village Dagar of Nobra area and buried him there.

When Ahmad Shah came to know about it, he was perturbed and decided to take revenge. Therefore he made preparations and requested Sobedar Kashmir for army help. From Kashmir, one thousand soldiers under command of Rafi Malik came to help Ahmad Shah. With this joint army Ahmad Shah attacked Khaplu. He defeated Mehdi and imprisoned him.,

There was no limit of loot and plunder. He annexed Khaplu with Askardoo and appointed Yole Sharoong Karim as Governor of Khaplu. He alongwith Mehdi and other prisoners returned back to Askardoo. Here he imprisoned Mehdi in a deep narrow and dark well and bread of flour and salt of equal weight and a cup of water was fixed to be his daily meals. This

unpleasant food within short period of time killed Mehdi. Afterwards till Dogra invasion, Khaplu was ruled by Askardoo.

Perhaps this event has been recorded by Fouq in his "Tawarikh-e-Kashmir" during rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Sobedar prince Sher Singh in 1832-1834 AD as.

"There were disturbances throughout the country. Pandit Ganesh was involved in war with Raja Askardoo. At last, Pandit was successful and Raja agreed to be the tax payer of Khalsa darbar. On return they found a mine of crystal glass in Kohsistan Astore and security posts were set up. Many pieces of crystal glass were presented to Prince. Sher Singh was very happy with the conquest the discovery of mine and Pandit was awarded the post of Shaibkari". Since there is no mention of Raja Askardoo in these records therefore, it is not certain. But in the history of Askardoo, this event has been related to Kashmir, therefore it has been recorded with it.

Shah Murad was crown Prince of Ahmad Shahg, but he died during his father's lifetime. During that period, Shah Murad's mother had also died and royal palace was controlled by Daulat Khatoon the sister of Haider Khan Shagr. She due to her personal influence motivated noble's of Askardoo to be her supporters and compelled Ahmad Shah to deprive his elder son Mohammad Shah and appoint his younger son Mohammad Ali Khan, who was born to Doulat Khatoon as crown Prince. Due to selfishness of Doulat Khatoon there were differences in the family, which resulted in destruction of entire dynasty.

Mohammad Shah was discharged from fort and put in at Gayasar colony. He was not even provided food and daily expenses and was successful to associate some noble's with him. Ali Sher Khan Kharmag was also his supporter. It was proposed, that Dogonee Pabano shall accompany him to Kashmir to request Sikh Sobedar for help. Therefore, Mohammad Shah accompanied by Gogonee Pabano absconded to Kashmir from

sent Mohammad Shah to Maharaja Ranjit Singh at Lahore. Maharaja Lahore had issued permission to Maharaja Gulab Singh for conquest of Ladakh. Therefore, he avoided to interfere in their matters and directed Mohammad Shah to meet Maharaja Gulab Singh. It is that period, when wazir Zorawar commanding Dogra army had left for Ladakh. Maharaja Gulab Singh directed Mohammad Shah to meet wazir & Zorawar. Mohammad Shah met wazir Zorawar at Sooru and arrived at Ladakh with him. Wazir Zorawar after conquest of Ladakh handed over Mohammad Shah to Tend off Nemgail Gayalpo Ladakh, to keep him in Ladakh for the time being. Perhaps he had an idea, that later on arrangements shall be made to help him.

After absconding Mohammad Shah from Gayasar, Ahmad Shah was indifferent to Ali Sher Khan Kartaksha and within few days the relations were so bad, that Ahmad Shah decided to attack Kartaksha. Ali Sher Khan could not confront the army of Askardoo and fort was closed. The people of Askardoo laid siege. In between, Ali Sher Khan with some of his companions moved out of fort during night and absconded towards Ladakh. When news about wazir Zorawar's entry to Ladakh was received, he started to establish relations with wazir.

The status and position of Rajgan Rondoo, Astore and Toltee have more or less, been like stipend holders and I have not received any records about their achievements. Therefore, I don't find any need to record events of these dynasties and depended only upon their genealogical orders.

The Genealogical orders of Rodoo and Astore are recorded with genealogical order of Askardoo. Kartaksha, which is branch of same dynasty, have been recorded separately by me and Toltee, a branch of Kartaksha dynasty, its genealogical order is recorded with Kartaksha order. Presently they are all Jagirdars, some are rich while other's poor. The Rajgan of Askardoo, Rondoo and Toltee don't care for their people. They

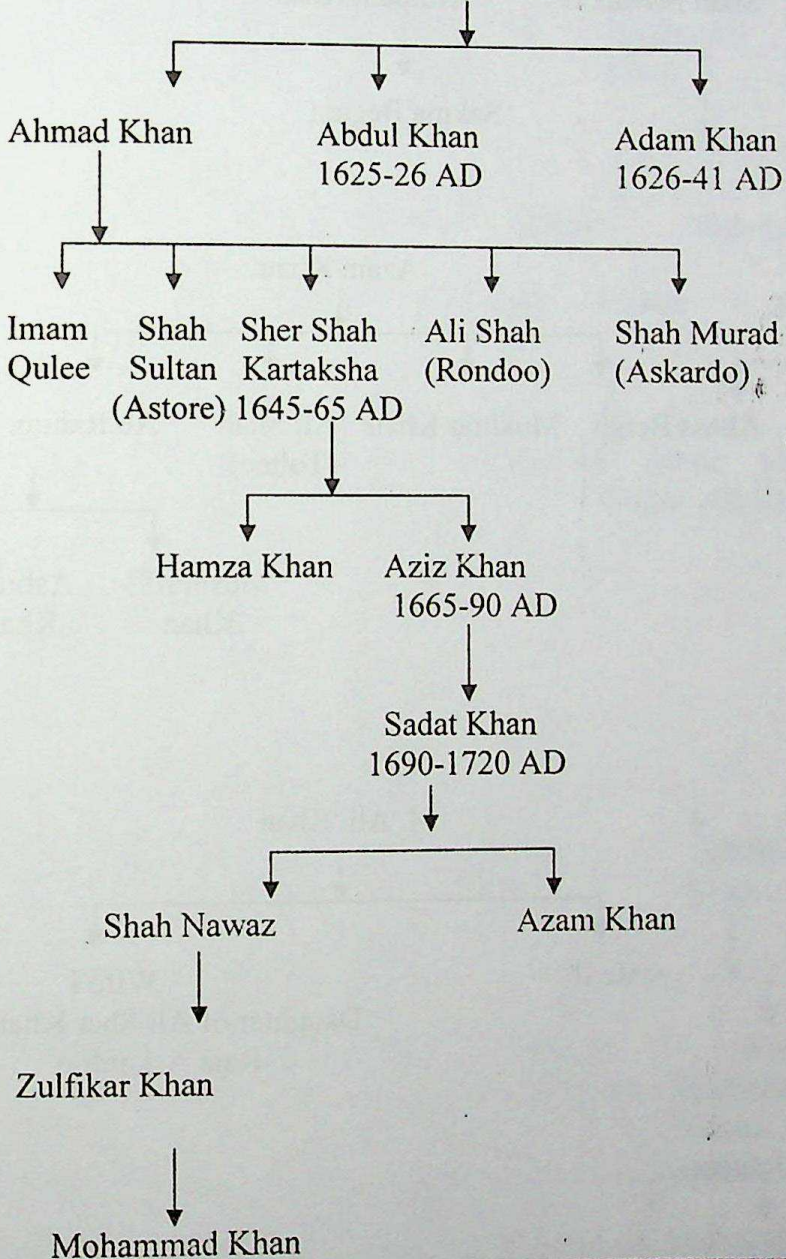
are only the Jagirdars of their cultivated fields. The taxes which the earlier Rajas were realizing from their subjects are now being paid out of Govt. treasury. Only Raja Kartaksha realizes the tax, of his Jagir from his subjects directly. Astore as per present division of state, is annexed with wazarat Gilgit and Raja Astore is a Jagirdar of that wazarat and is distinguished among unauthorized Rajgan.

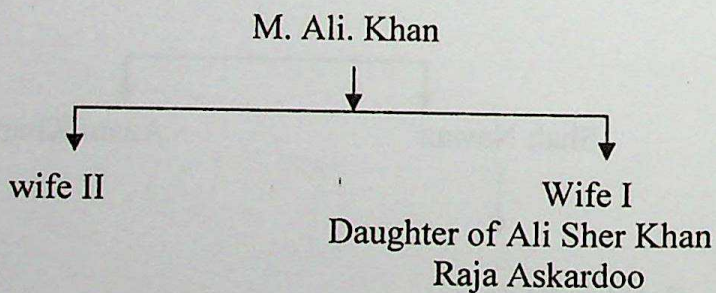
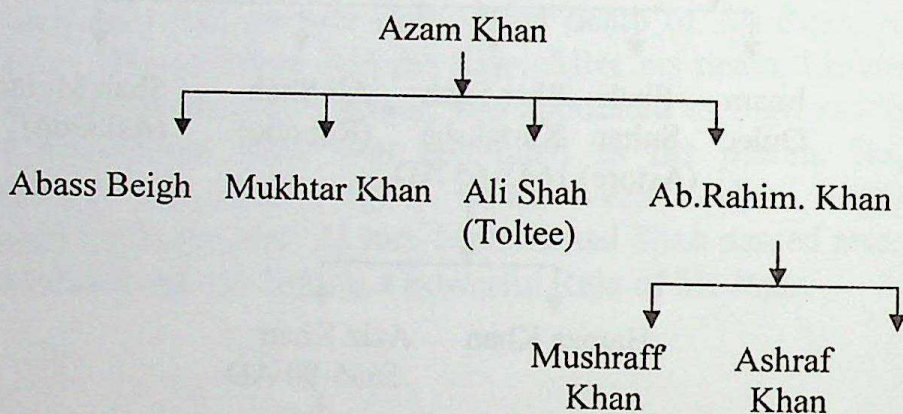
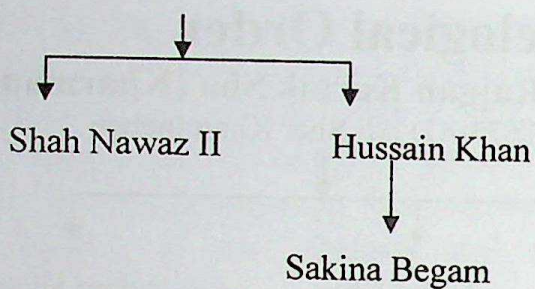
Wazir Zorawar Singh after arresting Ahmad Shah, appointed his son Mohammad Shah as Raja. After his death, his elder son, Ali Shah became Raja. After death of Ali Shah, his elder son, Hassan Khan was the Raja. After his death, his son, Mohammad Ali Shah as a minor, was appointed as Raja and his uncle Mohammad Shah was appointed as his patron. Raja Mohammad Ali Shah's foster father wazir Gulam Haider continued battle for him. At last, Mohammad Shah passed away. Now Mohammad Ali Shah is a powerful Raja of his Jagir.

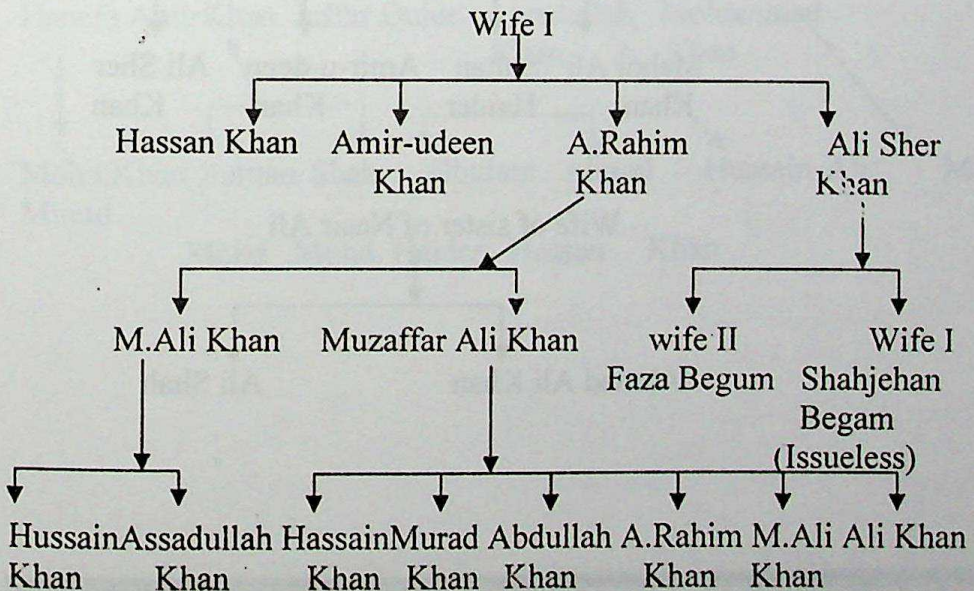
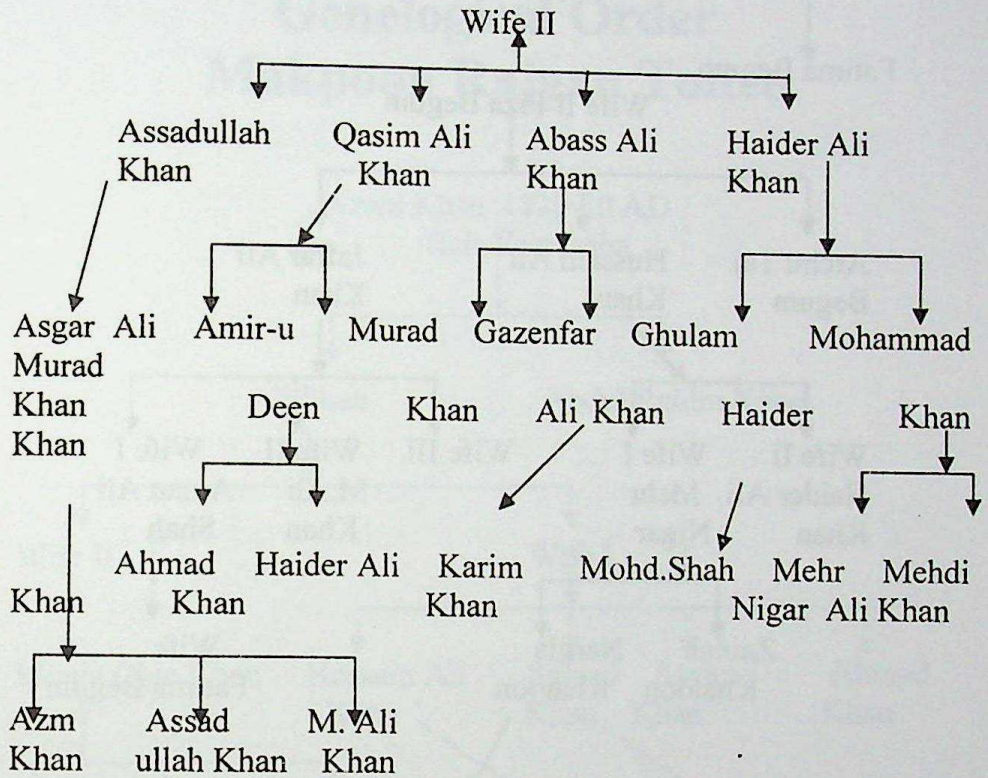
Genelological Order

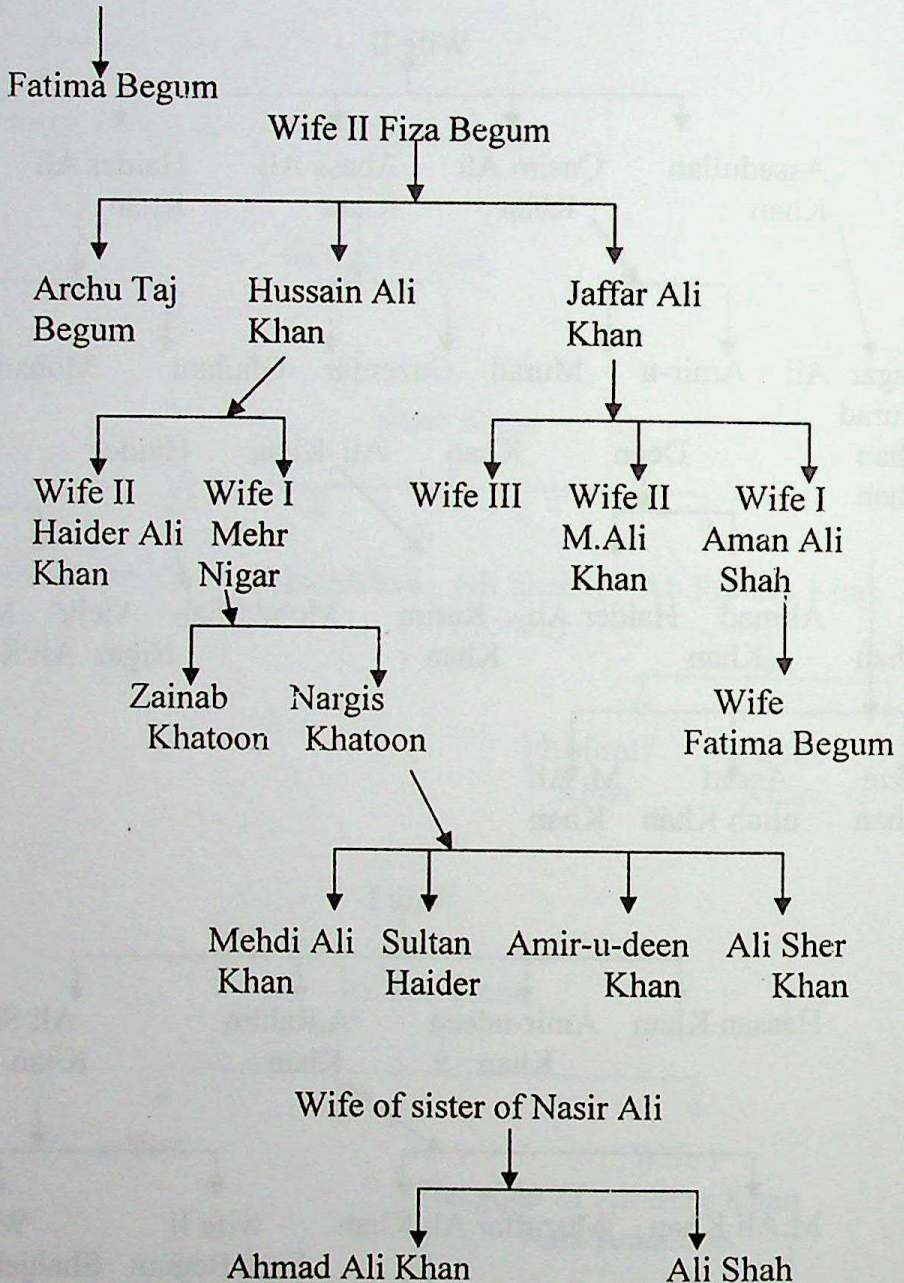
Makpoonn Rajgan Kartak Sha (Kharmang)

1595-1625 AD Ali Sher Khan Inchen

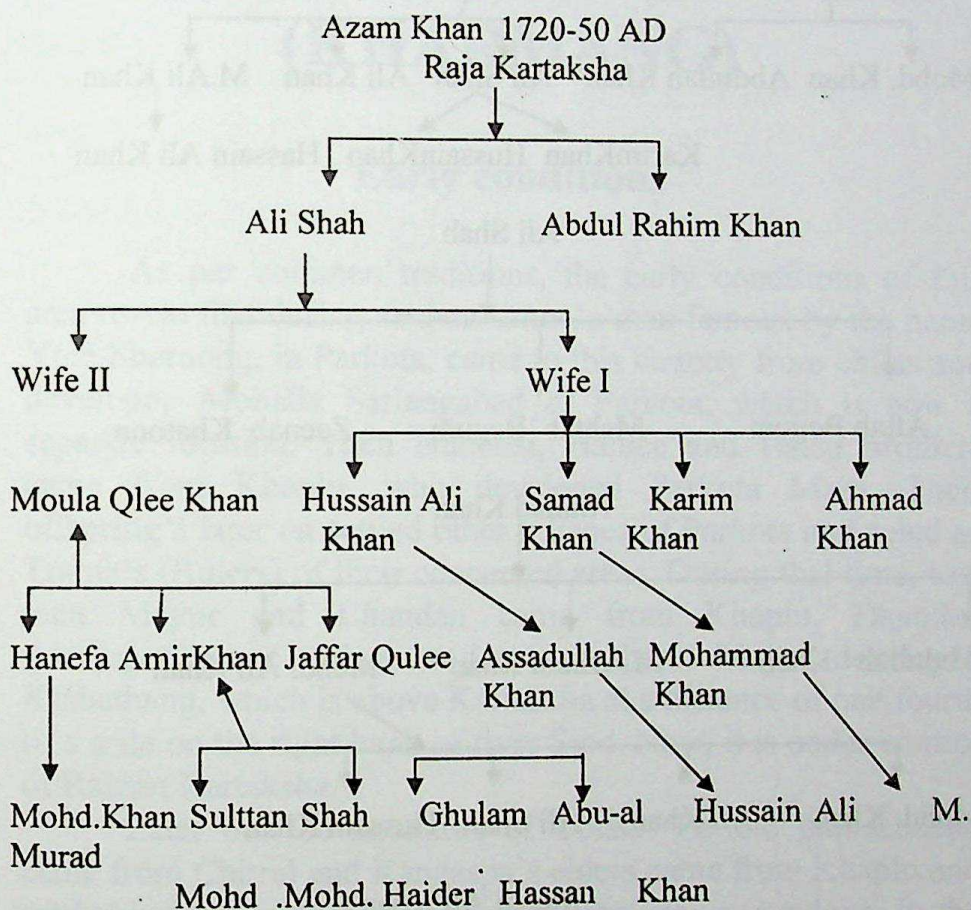


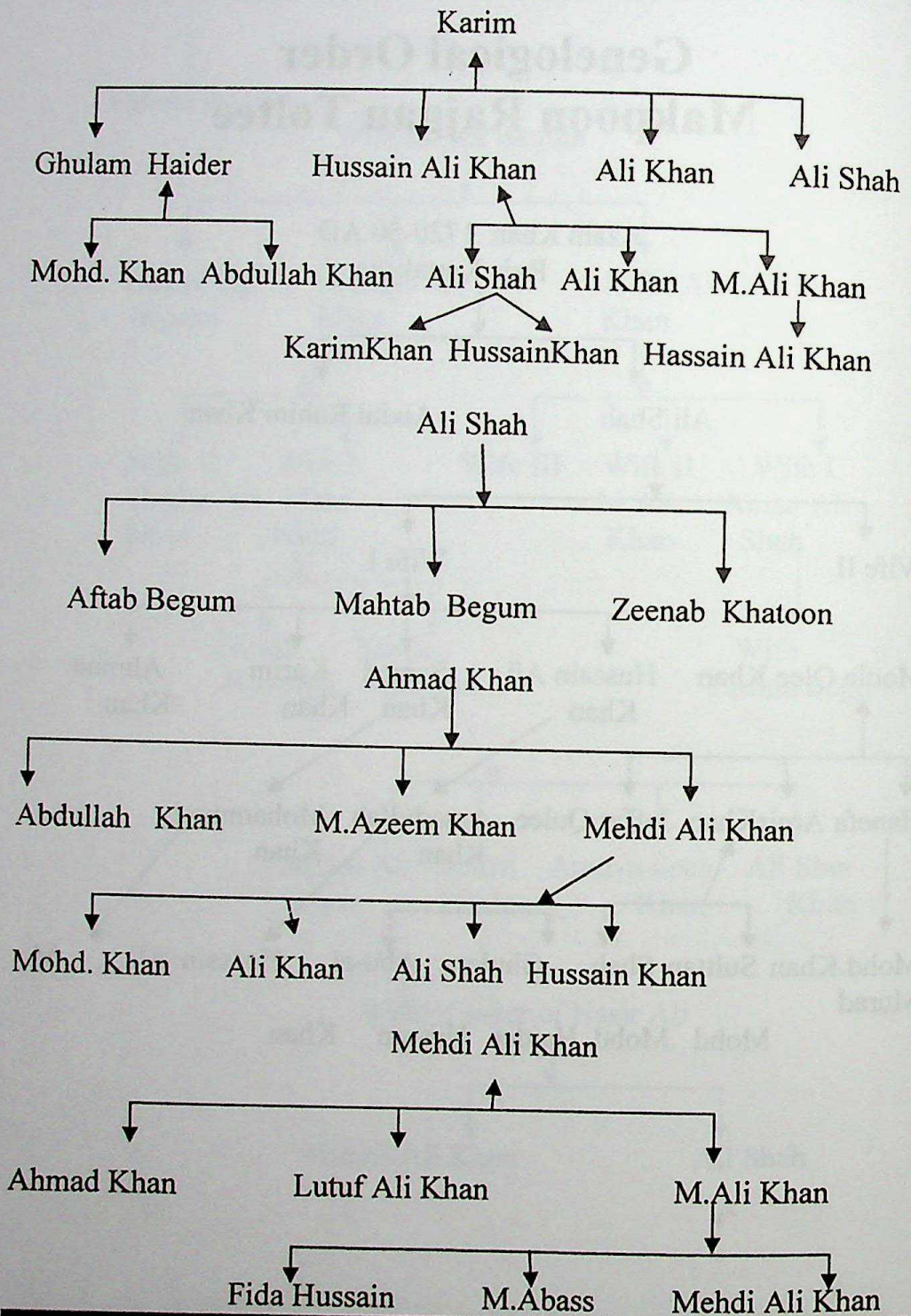






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Chapter-2nd

HISTORY OF KARTAKSHA (KHARMANG)

Early conditions

As per common traditions, the early conditions of this area reveal that during ancient times, a man famous by the name Yole Sharoong, in Parkota, came to this country from Chilas and developed Mohalla Sarlangabad of Parkota, which is now a separate location. Then Nunchai, Halbee and Harsa brothers came from Khaplu, who developed Parkota Main. Their offspring's later on settled other villages of Parkota and ruled as Trama's (Rulers) of their concerned areas. During that time, two men Mayur and Chandan came from Khaplu. Dhandan developed paree village and settled there. Mayor developed Krabathang, which is above Kartaksha at a distance of one fourth of a mile on the right bank of river Sind. Now, it is under control of Rajgan Kartaksha.

Later on, the ancestors of Yousuf Pa and onmachakpa came from Chitral and Kangaspa's elders came from Khaplu and settled here at a place which is now famous as Gundooos. In the meantime, a man, Chowanthook from Dard dynasty along with some companions entered in this country. He laid habitation on the two sides of Nala Kundruk. This habitation is now famous as Kharming. He evicted Mapur from Krabathung and sent him to a place which later on became famous as Mayoordu on his name. He captured Krabathung himself. He built a small house on

Kharmang rock for his residence and named it Anthook Khar on his name. Khar in Tibeti language means fort. During these days, Chomar sak came from Rondoo constructed a house at village Gabay in Nala Golees and developed Golees. He had a servant, Palpal by name, who developed Palaleed. For some time, these newly settled colonies were ruled separately. During Chomarsak's son, Lohrang Meer's time, Chowanthak evicted him from Golais and Palpaldo and sent to Baiecha and himself captured Golais. Likewise, he controlled Gandoos Paree and Mayurdoo and established a small Kingdom, which extended from Paree to Golais. It was named as Kartaksho.

Later on, his sons controlled Parkota and annexed it with Kartaksho. They settled Totlee and other villages on the bank of river Sind and Governed Kartaksho and Parkota. His genealogy order could not be traced out. It is said, that their rule lasted for long

Later on, it was attacked by Ladakh, but its time couldn't be ascertained. Neither it was known as to who was Raja of Kartakshov or Ladakh. But it is guessed, that this attack took place during that period when Islam touched boundaries of Askardoo. This army controlled Kartakshov and Parkota and both these areas were annexed with Govt. of Ladakh and in Kartaksho a Ladakhi ruler, Kharpooon was appointed and under his subordination, another Kharpooon was deputed to Parkota. The Ladakhi Govt. continued for long time on Kartakshov. In the meantime, the Kharpooon of Kartakshov constructed a magnificent palace adjacent to Anthak Khar, which is famous as Botec Khar. This palace still exists there.

During Gazi Meer, Raja Askardoos period, the Kharpooon of Askardoo disturbed Askardoo. On this basis, Ghazi Meer under command of his elder son and crown prince Ali Sher Khan, attacked Kartaksho. Ali Sher Khan after conquering Partkota and Kartaksho attacked Ladakh also and after its

conquest returned back to Raja Ladakh. Gothammat Choo (Nala Gira Gira) was fixed as boundary between Kartakshoo and Ladakh. From this time, Kartakshu annexed with Askardoo Govt. when population increased during Ali Sher Khan's rule he set up security posts at frontier areas. Since many forts were built in this small country, on this basis this country was named as Kharmang which means the country of forts. Ali Sher Khan, after conquest of Kartaksho, appointed Atthook dynasty's leading man Haider who was from Barkappay Pakee nation as ruler of Kartaksho.

During his last period of rule, Ali Sher Khan Inchen, awarded Rondoo to his younger son, Ahmad Khan, for subsistence and gifted Parkota and Kartaksho to his middle son, who settled at Parkota. Haider continued to be under his subordination as Aamil of Kartaksho. After Haider's death, his son Mirza Khan was appointed as aamil of Kartakshu in his place.

After death of Ali Sher Khan, when Abdal Khan controlled Askardoo he appointed Mirza Khan as aamil of Parkota also. Now, Mirza Khan became ruler of areas of Kartakshu and Parkota. Later on, when Abdal Khan was arrested, Mirza Khan's rule under Adam Khan extended upto Askardoo also. Afterwards, the riots which took place at Askardo, as a reason, Mirza Khan as sovereign, ruled Askardoo and Kartaksho for about ten years. When Adam Khan and Shah Murad returned from Hindustan and controlled Askardoo, Mirza Khan came to Kartakshu from Askardoo and ruled Kartakshov independently for two years. During that period, he continued disturbing Shah Murad. At last, Shah Murad in association with Imam Qulee Khan Raja Shagr, attacked Kartakshu. Mirza Khan bravely confronted joint forces and battle continued for three days. At last, when he thought that luck is not in his favor and it

is useless to fight, he alongwith his supporters absconded from Kundrik Nala, took refuge in fort ChoraBhat.

Shah Murad controlled Kartakshu, Mirza Khan was chased by Shah Murad's forces. He deputed three people, of three faiths namely Mulla Zoom Kasheepa of Kharmang, Barcha of Yarnagote and Naktu. Lupa of paree, secretly through Nala Kundrak to arrest Mirza Khan. Among employees of Mirza Khan, one person, Baldoor dapa of Mayurdoo was brother in law of Mulla Zoiom Kashee. With conspiracy of that man, the three persons arrested Mirza Khan during sleep and presented him before Shah Miurad, who carried him to Askardoo. From there he was sent to Adam Khan at Kashmir. Adam Khan, deputed him to Delhi to attend Emperor of Hind.

Sher Shah founder of Government of Kartakshu 1685 A.D.

When Shah Murad established control over Kartakshu, Imam Qulee Khan in consultation with Shah Murad, appointed his younger brother Sher Shah as Governor of Kartakshu. This arrangement continued till Shah Murad's death. After his death, whatever expeditions were performed by Sher Shah, has been described in History of Askardoo in a detailed manner. As a result, when Sher Shah came with reinforcements from Nawab Kashmir, he established his Govt. at Kartakshu. Both Kartakshu and Parkota areas detached from Govt. of Askardoo. But Askardoo continued its control over Kartaksho.

In this manner, Sher Shah laid the foundations of Kartakshu dynasty. During his rule, he constructed a new palace adjacent to Boote Khar, with help of Kashmiri skilled workers, which is named Somakhar. The palace constructed by Ladakhi's adjacent to Anthoka Khar is named Botee Khar. Anthokh Khar

was developed by Mirza Khan and on its basis it is famous as Mirzaie Khar. Adjacent to it, downwards, the palace built by Sher Shah, is named Somakhar. Collectively this whole structure is named as Anthokh Khar, which till date is in good condition.

During Sher Shah's rule a Fakir came here from Kashmir with a holy relic of Prophet Mohammad ^{SAW}. A shrine was constructed at Soma Khar for its security. This holy relic was kept in a box there, which is still present there. Sher Shah settled a new village on the right bank of river Sind opposite to Tarkanee and awarded to his younger son, Hamza Khan for subsistence. This village was named Hamza gund on his name. This village till date is under control of Hamza Khan's sons and their economic status is not better than ordinary Zamindiars.

During Sher Shah's rule the Kartakshu's boundaries were touching Badee Charkatee adjacent to Gole towards Askardoo, village Kirkat towards Kashmir and Gothamath towards Ladakh. Above Kirkat, Nsalas Shagr Shungoo and Drass, were associated with Askardoo.

Aziz Khan and Sadat Khan

After Sher Khan his son Aziz Khan assumed the Govt. of Kartakshu. No important event took place during his rule. He was succeeded by his son Sadat Khan. During his last days of rule, Karmang was attacked by Ladakhis under command of Lama Chopa Kaloon. He murdered Sadat Khan and his sons, who were in Somakhar and controlled the country. Azam Khan and Shah Nawaz two sons of Sadat Khan were minors and were residing in the house of Sher Pedar Ali at Baiyecha. Ali Dascho, observing disturbances sent Azam Khan towards Pooreeg in disguise of a beggar. Since Shah Nawaz was a child, he took his care in his home secretly. Later on, when Lama came to know

about it, that one of Sadat Khan's son is in Ali Dad cho's home, he called him. But Ali Dad Cho, proved so faithful, that such examples are only found in history of Hindustan. He produced his real son as Shah Nawaz before Lama Cho's darbar and witnessed his killing before him. But, avoided Shah Nawaz from every misfortune.

Lama Cho established his Govt. in Kartaksho and Parkota. The Raja of Askardo, due to internal differences and weaknesses was not in a position to face Ladakh's and in this case, he could not provide any help to Kartaksha dynasty. With this weakness, the Raja Askardoo, took the benefit that he annexed Drass upto Gsndiyal cho and Shagr area with his Govt. later on, the areas of Shagr, Shangu were joined with Kartaksha.

Azam Khan, in disguise of a beggar came to Pooreeg. According to some people, he went to Ladakh and some say, that he was servant of Tashee Nemgail at Malba. The last tradition seems to be sound. It is said, that he worked as stable keeper and during this time he learnt Bodhi knowledge and achieved competence in the field of medicine. Gradually, he became one of the Prominent employees of Tashee Nemgeel. During that time, some events happened, by which Tashee Nemgeel doubted, that his employee Azam Khan belonged to Makpoon dynasty of Kartakshu. Azam Khan also became aware about it. He fled away in disguise of a Larjay (Hakeem) and went to Barganpa's house at Yurbaltik and revealed him the real story. He provided him shelter secretly. Some people came from Malba to search him. They were also provided shelter by Berganpa and served them satisfactorily. He satisfied them that Azam Khan is not here. When they returned, Azam Khan was sent towards Kartakshu by Barganpa with provision of food and travel expenses. He reached Toor Gund, in the home of his dynasty's old employees, Imlee and informed Ali Dad Choo. He came to Toor Gund and took Azam Khan to his home at Baiecha. In this

way, this successor of Govt. Kartakshu, in disguise of Lama Largay, arrived Baieche. Now Ali Dad Cho, associated Hassan Mohammad Botee with him who was aamil at Gamais from Lama Cho's side. Hassan Mohammad was in fact supporter of Makpoon dynasty and he was ready to help Azam Khan. He conspired with Munchoong Botu wazir Lama Cho. This man has been loyal to Makpoon dynasty and was holding the post of wazir during their rule. On this basis he was determined to help Azam Khan whole heartedly.

Incidentally, Lama Cho was involved in a disease like his two brothers. Minchoong Bootu advised, that as Azam Khan has come disguised as larjay, he should be presented here in the same state. He will be engaged for treatment of three Lama brothers and we shall wait for an opportune time. Finding an opportunity Lama Cho shall be killed and he can control the Govt. therefore, Lama Larjay attended the darbar of Lama Cho. He was asked to treat three brothers. He proposed three separate rooms on the top storey of palace for these three brothers, whose windows open towards Argoon aldung garden.

The treatment was on here. In the meantime, wazir Minchoong Botu called Batlee people to Kartaksho. When all arrangements were made, then during night these three brothers were Kicked out of windows one by one, towards Argoon aldang. The height of this binding is sufficient enough to for the death of a man. Besides the rock on which this building is situated is very high above the surface of earth. The rooms in which Lama Cho's were housed, were located in such a fall from a Pattern, that anything which may fall from their windows, shall strike with the rock till it reaches ground. Therefore, it was enough for death of a man, to kick him out of the room. With their fall, the brothers were divided, into pieces. Next Moring, a declaration for coronation of Azam Khan took place. The Baltee people were enjoying and were involved in bloodshed of

Ladakhi's. in this manner, Ghazi controlled from Kartakshu to Parkota.

During Lama Cho's Govt. the village Ganokh again annexed with Garkono. Ghazi was not successful to get it back. Therefore, Marval was fixed as boundary between Kartaksho and Ladakh. Azam Khan handed over the Govt. of Parkota to his brother, Shah Nawaz, who was unknown till date and Ali Khan Cho, who had offered faithful services, was gifted the village of Bazheka in return and appointed him as Sardar of army. His offspring's are still settled at Baiecha. Upto Raja Ali Sher Khan's time they were exempted to pay taxes but now they are tax payers. Barganpa was awarded with gifts and presents for his services. Later on, when Ghazi's grandson Mohammad Ali Khan developed Mymoos thang, this colony was awarded to offspring's of Barganpa, in return for the services of their elders. This dynasty is still settled at Mymoos Thang and is possessing the same area.

Ghazi had four sons, Abdul Rahim Khan, Ali Shah, Mukhta Khan and Abass Beigh. Abdul Rahim was appointed as crown prince. Ali Shah was awarded Toltee for Subsistence. Mukhta Khan was gifted Mayoredo while Abass Beigh was awarded Kudooskar, which is situated below, Nala Gangchay towards pare. This place later on became famous as Abass Beigh Umme Shagran and is now under control of Raja Kartakshu.

Abdul Rahim Khan

After Azm Khan Ghazi, his elder son, Abdul Rahim Khan, became Raja. During his period of rule, his brother Mukhta Khan created problems. During days of high water level in river Sind when it was impossible to cross, Mukhta Khan was involved in loot and Plunder upto Kirkat and he was looting

Kharmang during cold season. Abdul Rahim Khan was worried about him. At last, he attacked Mukhta Khan and murdered him.

Abdul Rahim Khan had three sons, Ashraf Khan, Mohammad Ali Khan and Mushraf Khan. Ashraf Khan was a religious man and was leading the life of a recluse and died at Askardoo under same conditions. Mohammad Ali Khan was appointed crown prince and became Raja after Abdul Rahim Khan. He developed villages oldung, Mardal, Shreetang, Tarkatee and Mymoosthang. Mohammad Ali Khan had two Rani's. one was daughter of Ali Sher Khan II, the Raja of Askardoo, second, Aziz Khan, Resident of Kharmang's daughter. He had four sons from his first Rani, Ali Sher Khan, Abdul Rahim Khan, Amir-u- deen and Hassan Khan. Ali Sher Khan was appointed as crown Prince. Hassan Khan left for Hajj and passed away there, issueless. Abdul Rahim and Amir-u-deen's sons are still alive.

Mohammad Ali Khan was followed by Ali Sher Khan as Raja. His first wife, Rani Shahjehan Begum, was daughter of Raja Ahmad Shah Askardoo. He had no issue from her. His second Rani was Raza Begum daughter of Syed Hussain of Kharmang. At that time, Ahmad Shah, Raja Askardoo, was after invasion of countries. He had conquered Khaplu. After wards he planned for Kharmang, for which he made an excuse, that Ali Shah had a second marriage against the will of his first wife, Shahjehan Begum daughter of Ahmad Shah. On this basis, he under command of his crown Prince invaded Kharsang. When Ali Sher Khan received the news, the army entered Paree, he then as helpless absconded towards Ladakh from fort Anthookhar. Perhaps, he had no hope to win against enemy and in case of defeat, there was no alternative for Ahmad Khan either to imprison or to kill him as he has been informed by his Rani about Ahmad Shah's plans. Therefore, it is thought, that in consultation with his Rani Shahjehan Begum, Ali Sher Khan had

absconded by leaving fort. He was satisfied that Shah Murad shall not dishonor his sister therefore he was careless about his family.

Shah Murad arrived Kartaksha. For few days, he stayed in the fort. Then due to disease, he left for Askardoo. About his disease, it is related, that whatever goods were in the shrine of somakhar, were distributed among army. His sister Shahjehan Begam avoided him against this act, that it is against the religious Philosophy to desecrate the shrines. But Shah Murad due to his pride least bothered about it, which resulted in this disease, which took toll of Shah Murad's life and died after few days at Askardoo.

Though, during this attack, the crown prince of Askardoo lost his life, but Ahmad Shah did nothing about accession of Kartakshu. However, Ali Sher Khan did not dare to return back and stayed at Ladakh with Gayalpo Tendroff Nemgeel. Shahjehan Begam dispatched a scornful message to her father, that what magnanimity is it to treat your daughter so badly? Thereafter, Ahmad Shah, sent a man to Ali Sher Khan, to return back to Kharman and control your Govt. Ali Sher Khan replied, that you are not trustworthy. If you place Ahmad Khan Toltee as guarantor, that you won't disturb my freedom, then I am coming back, otherwise the freedom as traveler is much better than the prison of home. Since Ahmad Khan guaranteed, Ali Sher Khan returned from Ladakh and controlled Kartaksho.

The message sent by Shahjehan Begum to her father Ahmad Shah, about Ali Sher Khan was carried by Ahmad Khan Toltee. Thereafter, the same Ahmad Khan was the guarantor. In return for these services, Ali Sher Khan, after regaining control of Kharman, paid revenue tax of Nala Galyakhus to Ahmad Khan, which was under possession of Ahmad Khan's sons till Ali Sher Khan's life.

After death of Shah Murad, there were differences about crown prince, which has been recorded in the History of Askardo. Mohammad Shah being maternal brother and brother in law of Ali Sher Khan, had Sympathy for him and from the beginning had been his supporter. After few days of absconding of Mohammad Shah to Kashmir, Wazir Zorawar Singh Kalooria entered Soru with Gorkha army. Within few days he captured Kartasy, Pushukum, Soot and Drass. Raja Sher Ali Khan took part in expeditions of wazir Zorawar Singh Kalaria's attack on Ladakh Baltistan and Pooreeg, later on, Nathey Shah's first expedition of Gilgit and lastly wazir Lakhpatt and wazir Ratno's expedition of Srinagar. The achievements of said Raja were available to me through his own Persian writing which I received from Raja Aman Ali Shah Jagirdar Kharmang. The summary of the same is asunder.

"I have two relations with Raja Ahmad Shah Askardoo. i.e; I am his nephew as well as son in law. But Raja keeping these relations aside, incited people of Tibet Minor, Askardoo, Rondoo, Shagr, Kara, Astore, Khaplu and Parkota against me. He in association with Ali Khan Rondo, Haider Khan Shagr, Shat Parkota, Khurram Khan Kars, Doulat Ali Khan Khaplu and Ahmad Khan Totlee attacked Kartaksha. Now, there is no other alternative for me but to abscond. Therefore, leaving my family and property at the mercy of my enemy, took refuge at Tibet Major(Ladakh). In the meantime, wazir Zorawar Singh Kalaria alongwith Dogra army enroute Darwan, entered Sooru and Kartasy. I was very happy to receive this news. I secretly sent my brother wazir Ghulam Hussain Naqaltoopa and Fazl Ali Daftri to see wazir Shaib. They informed wazir about all ups and down of this country and also revealed my sad story. They gave him my dispatch also. After receiving gifts and presents, they returned with the message, that from today, you will be the confident man of Sarkar. It is your duty to produce Raja Ladakh

before us to pay Salams. It will be credited to you. This event dates back to 18th Ramzan, 1253 Hijra (1835 AD). Later on, in the same year, on 1st Zilhaj (Saturday) I attended wazir Zorawar Singh's services."

I had promised wazir Shaib and have made agreements that during attack of Baltistan by Dogra forces, I shall provide route and all help. Therefore, on my return to fort after four years, the said wazir alongwith eleven thousand army and ten thousand locals, of Ladakh and Pooreeg with Rajgan of that country for conquest of Baltistan entered village Chechethung. Raja Ahmad Shah's army of Rondo, Askardoo, Toltee and Kharmang camped opposite to said village. Only river Attock was in-between. Both parties were involved in bloodshed.

In the meantime, I received an order from wazir Shaib, that we have come to this narrow route with Sarkari army only on your promise. You had said, that you will provide the route and shall help. Now, inform us about the future plans, which may lead to success. Thereupon, I ordered the commanders of my army, who came back from battlefield, so that route is open for Sarkari army. My army was about one thousand in number and they came back. Now, the Sarkari army attacked. Among Raja Ahmad Shah's army, some leading men, i.e; wazir Syltan, wazir Partkota, Jan Mohammad and some other people were killed and Askardoo army defeated and dispersed. Wazir Shaib alongwith army crossing river entered my country at Hamzagund. I deputed Fazl Ali, Ghulam Hussain Aadolpa and Terngufa Abu Aala to wazir Shaib's darbar for seeking employment and next day after return from Askardo army, attended the darbar of wazir Shaib with gifts and presents. The wazir received me warmly. He gifted royal robes and presents. Accompanying wazir Shaib we reached in my fort and for three

days, served army and called Ahmad Khan, Raja Toltee and Ghulam Shah Raja Parkota to offer Salams to wazir. After three days accompanying wazir alongwith Sarkari army went to Askardoo.

The Rondoo and Astore people, did not offer Salams to wazir. The wazir deputed me to Bukhardoo alongwith army. From Buykhardoo, commanding army I left for Rondoo entroute Chair. Two Govt. officials, Mirza Rasool Beigh and Mohammad Khan with one thousand soldiers left for Rondoo enrout Kachora. Both officers entered fort Rondoo at the same time. Raja Rondoo, Ali Khan, leaving his fort and country absconded. The fort was conquered. Whatever property and goods in the foot were possessed by the Govt. we all returned happily to meet wazir. The wazir deputed five hundred soldiers towards Astore and fort Astore was also conquered. The wazir alongwith Govt. forces stayed for seven months at Askardoo. During this time I was engaged in services of my people. I had to expend about five thousand rupees out of my own Pocket. After nine months, wazir deputed Baghwan Singh Kistawari alongwith Jamadar Bopat and Mukhtar Khan Munshi and eighty soldiers in fort Askardoo. He accompanied by Raja Ahmad Shah, wazirs of Askardoo and Shagr returned back to Ladakh via Khaplu. I alongwith the elders of my country after realizing revenue tax from Parkota & Totlee areas attended wazir at Ladakh.

On his arrival at Ladakh, wazir planned to invade Poorang via Changthang. Therefore, the Govt. army from Ladakh, Pooreeg Tibet Minor and Major all left. I myself accompanied wazir upto Kotal Chan than. There. Wazir deputed me for defence of Tibet Minor and arrangement of damaged equipments and food stuffs. I deputed my brother Raja Haider Ali and Sher Ali brother of Ghulam Ali with Lashkar of wazir and returned back to manage the affairs of conquered areas.

On his arrival at Poorang wazir conquered fort Poorang. Mehta Bastee Ram was appointed as Thanedar of that area and came to Changthang. In the meantime, the army in great numbers came from Botia and laid siege of fort Poorang. On receiving this news, wazir returned to Pooreeg from Changthang and fought fiercely with Lashkar Botia. At last, as destined, wazir lost his life. My brother Haider Ali Khan, Raja Ahmad Shah, Mohammad Ali Khan Khaplu, Ahmad Khan Toltee and Chogo Banov of Ladakh, all were arrested by Botia army while the rest were killed. Later on, Botia army in consltuation with Raja Ahmad Shah and Mohammad Ali Shah Khjan Khaplu, invaded Ladakh. Pahlwan Singh Kemdan with some soldiers were deployed at Ladakh fort. The fort was besieged and no one was allowed to go out of fort. On this occasion, Raja Ahmad Shag sent his confident wazir, Yousatrang Karim to Askardoo. Ali Khan Rondo, Haider Khan Shagr, Doulat Ali Khan Khaplu. Kazim Beigh Askardoo, Lutuf Ali Khan and Khurram Khan all in agreement, got Baghwan Singh thanedar arrested and captured Govt. fort. Sarkari Toshakhana was looted. Beghawan Singh Jamadar and Soldiers were imprisoned in Gulabpore and wazirpora etc. The whole country was disturbed. The Govt. property was damaged. Raja Haider Khan called wazir Holo's son, wazir Sujah for reinforcements with one hundred and forty people. Whatever goods were in Toshakhana Sarkar, was distributed by Rajgan among Nagarwalas. Even fort Kargil was damaged. The Thenedars of Kartasy, Sooru and Zanskar were suppressed. Only Ladakh fort was saved. When Ladakh and Baltistan were experiencing such conditions, then Dewan Hari Chand and wazir Ratno, with Govt.armyentered Drass. I was disturbed due to bad state of affairs in the country. I became very happy to hear about entry of Govt. army in Drass. I immediately deputed my wazir Ghulam Adulappa to meet Dewan Hari Chand and wazir Ratnoo. He informed both Dewan and wazir about the

prevalent local conditions and accompanying them conquered Kargil fort. Dewan conquered whole country of Pooreeg and handed it over to previous Thandedars. From there Dewan and wazir alongwith soldiers set out for Ladakh. On reaching Ladakh, they lifted siege of Ladakh fort and Ladakh was again recaptured by the Sarkar. During night when Raja Ahmad Shah Mohammad Ali Khan, Khaplu and Wachu Gonbo flee with Chhot, Dewan and wazir entering fort met Magna Thandar, Pahlwan Singh Kemdan and soldiers of Sarkar and celebrated conquest. During siege of fort Ladakh, Raja Mohammad Khan Khaplu his Lashkar and one thousand Lashkar Botia, had come to attack Magna Thanedar and Ladakh fort. Returning from here, he entered fort chimray. He was involved in blood Shed with Dewan Hari Chand and Govt. soldiers and many soldiers were killed. At last, Dewan conquered. Some enemy soldiers were killed some were arrested. Raja Mohammad Ali Khan alongwith three hundred Lashkar Botia and one hundred and forty soldiers of Lashkar Khaplu, were imprisoned by Dewan. Mohammad Ali Khan was kept in Chains in a prison. In short, when whole country of Ladakh was conquered by Dewan Hari Chand and wazir Ratno, wazir Ghulam Hussain returned with Fatch and Ferozee and came to me.

On his arrival, I received him, myself and reaching Kharpu situated in Kartasy, attended wazir Lakhpat. I brought wazir alongwith via Shangoo-Shagr route and arranging for travelling and food for one thousand soldiers entered Askardoo after crossing Kotal Kafchoon. Reaching fort, battle was on because there were twelve thousand soldiers in the fort i.e; one thousand Govt. soldiers and one thousand my own people. Two thousand soldiers attacked twelve thousand soldiers. Many people were killed. Some fled away. Some drowned in river and rest were imprisoned. The fort was captured. Due to loot by

Askardoo people, there was no flour in the fort. I provided three thousand maunds of wheat.

Raja Ahmad Shah and Raja Gulam Shah's families, wazirs and elders of Askardo, absconded and went to Raja Ali Khan at Rondu. Raja Haider Khan Shagr with rank and file, fled from Shagr. Raja Doulat Alim Khan Khaplu, fled way to Lhasa via Chorabhat. The rest were imprisoned. I deputed men to chase Doulat Ali Khan and Haider Khan and brought them back. Wazir Sujah alongwith his men fled towards Nagar. baghwan Singh and ?Jamadar Bopat were called from Gulabpore and Wazirpore to Askardo and they had a meeting with wazir Lakhpat. I was attending wazir Lakhpat from the day he entred Shango Shagr till end of war of Askardo. I had to expend Rupees five thousand out of my pocket for foodgrains, Wheat, Sheep and Goats, Patto and Weapons etc.

During this period, after receipt of message of conquest by His Excellency, they issued a special order in my favor in which it was ordered that I alongwith all Rajgan, wazirs, noble's shall attend His Highness. In this way, I was a distinguished person among my friends as well as foes. Therefore, I made all arrangements for all Rajgans and Noble's for departure. Besides, it was ordered, that among my confident men, wazir, brothers or any person, to whome I consider to be fit for the said service, be appointed as Advocate on my behalf, so that he shall be always at the service of His Highness and shall advise and assist the wazir. Therefore, I on after consultations appointed wazir Ghulam Hussain at Askardo for the said Job and alongwith all Rajgan and elders went to meet His Highness. I arrived Ganderbal, there, elephant with Hooda was ready for my ride and under such arrangement I visited Gis Highness and kissed his feet. I feel myself-distinguished among my own people and met various Kashmiri officers.

Dewan Hari Chand, defeated Botia army at Changthang. The whole army was destroyed and many people were imprisoned. Thereafter, Dewan released all soldiers from prison. Only three people, Kaloon Lhasa, Chunjoot, AchuGbno, Raja AhmadShah and Raja Mohammad Ali Khan were produced before His Highness in Chains. I on the basis of my relations with Mohammad Ali Khan recommended to His Highness and Govt. released him and he was handed over to me.

During that period, Sheikh Ghulam Mohi-u-deen was Governor of Kashmir. When Dewan Hari Chand and wazir Ratnu were ready for Chanthan, the Governor of Kashmir had supplied reinforcements in terms of Paddy and bullets. Besides, during Askardoo war, he provided some soldiers, one Zarb Tope, one Zarb Gomobara and some money. At that time, Raja Gilgit Karim Khan and wazir Qaisar etc. approached Sheikh Gh. Mohindeen for seeking help and assistance due to oppression by Gowhar Aman of Gilgit. The Sheikh ordered Nathay Shah to carry reinforcements and requested His Highness, that some sincere person from Tibet be deputed to help and support Nathay Shah. His Highness ordered me and wazir Lakhpat, that in order to help Nathay Shah, appoint any one among your confidants to accompany him and whatever expenditures may be in this context, don't mind. I had appointed my wazir Ghulam Hussain and Fazl Ali Daftri at Askardoo as Advocate, in Gosavon Thanedar's office for public services and wazir Lakhpat also ordered Thanedar that wazir Ghulam Hussain, obeying Govt. orders shall be ready for services and shall leave with all his belongings, food grains, wheat & sheep with Lashkar. Whatever they spent hardly matters. Conquering Rondoo shall serve Nathay Shah at Gilgit.

Therefore, wazir Ghulam Hussain left from Askardoo with two thousand soliders and reaching Rondoo during night laid siege of fort. There was no need of waging any war. The fort

was conquered through arbitration. Ahmad Shah and Ghulam Shah, wqazirs, noble's and elder's of Askardoo and Shagr, with their families had fled to Fort Astak from Rondo. Wazir Ghulam Hussain leaving Rondo arrived Astak and laid siege of fort and after conquering it, sent all of them to Thanedar Gosawaon and the Govt. was established upto Astak boundary.

Afterwards, wazir Ghulam Hussain, alongwith Lashkar Tibet, Rondo, Aala and Raja Ali Khan, left for Gilgit. Enroute, conquered white fort i.e; Karpokhar after bloodshed and carrying Lashkar of this place, which number about three thousand soldiers, to defeat Gowhar Aman at Gilgit and joined NathyShah. Gowhar Aman at that time was owner of whole country of Gilgit. There was great bloodshed and parties suffered heavy losses. But fort Gilgit was conquered and Gowhar Aman was defeated who absconded like a treacherous man. Gilgit was controlled by Sarkar.

It was winter season. There was not even a chating of flour in the fort, because siege continued for three months. Three thousand soldiers were with Nathy Shahg and the Tibetion Lashkar was also three thousand in number. Gowhar Aman's forces were about seven thousand in number. The Kashmir road was blocked. To carry food for so many people in Gilgit was difficult. Nathy Shah said to my wazir that soldiers are fed up with shortage of food. We must do something for it. The said wazir with the news about their conquest returned back to Askardoo alongwith his Lashkar. During these six months my wazir had performed remarkable activities.

The forts of Ladakh, Askardoo, Shagr Gilgit and Khaplu were conquered. The miscreants were nowhere. When wazir arrived Askardoo, he in agreement with Gosavoon, Thanedar, sent, foog grains, wheat, Potato, Sheep, weapons, salt, Tabocco, for army deployed at Gilgit, about 6000 maunds in weight. When message of conquest was received by His Highness, the

Sarkar extended great honor to me, by which I was a distinguished man among other Rajgans of Baltistan.

His Highness had all praise and honor for me and all Rajgan who had been to Kashmir, with me, were handed over to me for their safe return to their homes which I did sincerely.

Later on, during Maharaja Dileep Singh's period when there was dispute between Sheikh- Imam-u-deen Sobadar Kashmir and Sarkarwala about possession of Kashmir, the Sarkarwala issued special orders for me to come to Srinagar immediately alongwith Tibet Lashkar and weapons. I made arrangements for the same. I had to wait for arrival of Lashkar for other Rajas. I first of all deputed my wazir Ghulam Hussain Asdulapa and Fazl Ali, with bullets and gunpowder alongwith twenty gunmen from Kartaksha.

After his departure, Rajgan arrived along with their army. But Raja Doulat Ali Khan returned back to his home from fort Khirku. I alongwith Rajgan and army, left for Srinagar. We arrived Srinagar after fifteen days of our departure, to meet wazir Lakhpat and stayed at Mohalla Sheikh Bagh. After twenty days of my arrival, wazir Ratno arrived at the same Mohalla with ten thousand soldiers and were making Preparations for war. It was proposed, that I alongwith other Rajgan shell attack from Kohi Maran of Tibet. There was great bloodshed. The enemy attacked during night. From midnight till morning the canon shots were on and in the morning, sword fighting started. Wazir Lakhpat lost his life. Imam-u-deen's Lashkar was more than enough. He had laid siege from Kohi-Maran and Sheikh Bagh. The route towards fort was closed. Wazir Ratno left with one thousand five hundred war warriors and enroute Kohi Maran, confronted Sikh army and they crossed through their lawns and came to me in fort. I with a firm belief upon Almighty, closed the door of fort and sat inside fort. Every day reinforcements were received by Sheikh Imam-u-deen. Seven thousand soldiers alongwith Sher

Ahmad and Rajgan Bamba and Khaka arrived. In this manner, Sheikh Imam-u-deen assembled thirty thousand soldiers. They laid such a strict siege around us that it was impossible for even a bird to fly. To reach Makhdoom and Hassanabad, the Botakadal road was damaged. Bullets and canons were raining. When siege continued for long, enemy started digging a tunnel towards us. After enquiry, wazir Ratno said, what to do now? I proposed that a tunnel be dug inside the fort. He agreed. I deployed wazir Ghulam Hussain with his men for digging the tunnel. Twenty men were working day and night and were paid @=Rs three, for day and Rs= three for night, as labor charges. In short, after fourteen days hard work, our tunnel extended upto thirty yards outside the tower and there was exchange of hot words between our and Imam-u-deen tunnel workers. But we overpowered them and they fled down. We were under siege for three months.

The people were worried. But I consoled them to stay at their allotted places. Afterwards, an Advocate of Maharaja Dileep Singh came and by his orders, the siege came to an end. The Sarkar achieved success. I had to spent seven thousand rupees out of my own pocket.

As has been decided, we all attended His Highness at Shergadhi. Wazir Ratno reported about my services in detail. Sarkar gifted me royal robes, i.e; Shaka Kemkhab, a pair of gold rings; Kantha Gold, A Pair of Pashmina Shawl and a jagir of five hundred rupees at Kashmir. Later on, all of us returned back to our own countries.

After Raja Ali Sher Khan, his son Jaffar Ali Khan became Raja. Afterwards his son, Aman Ali Shah was the Raja who was followed by his son Ali Sher Khan. This Jagir in respect of area and income was highest in Baltistan. On the basis of Maharaja Gulab Singh's deed, there is no interference in the internal affairs of Baltistan. The present Raja is very popular.

The dynasty of Rajgan Toltee is a branch of Kartaksha dynasty. It has not performed any specific achievement and therefore, there is no need to record it. However, Genealogical order of this dynasty has been recorded. After death of Mohammad Ali Khan, his son became Raja, who was a minor. He was very noble and a civilized Youngman.

Geneological Order of Shagar Rulers

Ancient Dynasties

1. Geyakhang
2. Gayapakhang
3. Teysatay Cho
4. Yoketharn
5. Yokematham
6. Sher Khang
7. Mar Khang
8. Chapa Khang

Mashaid Sher Batton

9. Tanzanthum
10. Goreethum
11. Ghazithum alias Ghazi Mir 1440/1470 AD.
12. Ali Mir 1470-1490AD
13. Gazree 1490-1520AD
14. Abdullah Khan 1520-1535AD
15. Haider Khan
16. Hameed Khan
17. Rozee Khan
18. Sultan Khan
19. Mohammad Khan
20. Hassan Khan 1633-1634AD.
21. Hasam Qulee Khan

Majeed Khan



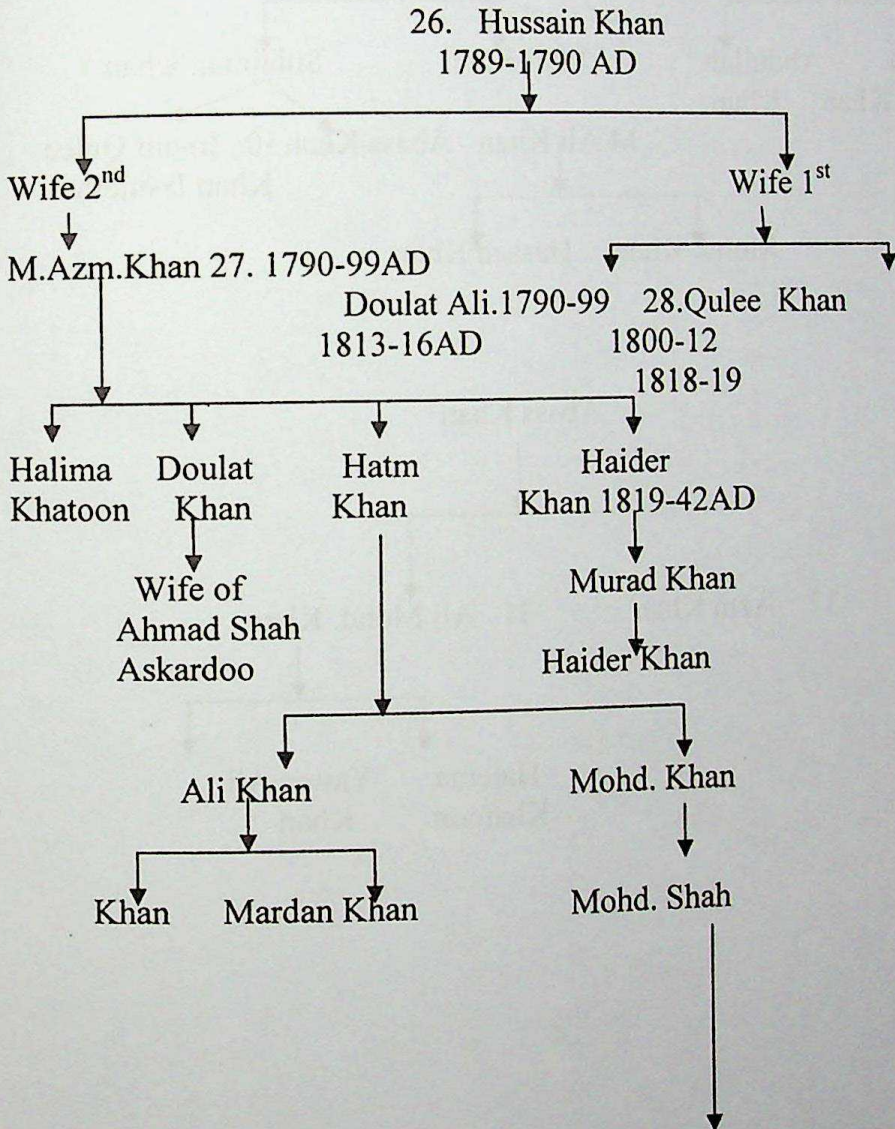
Modern Dynasties (Aamacha)

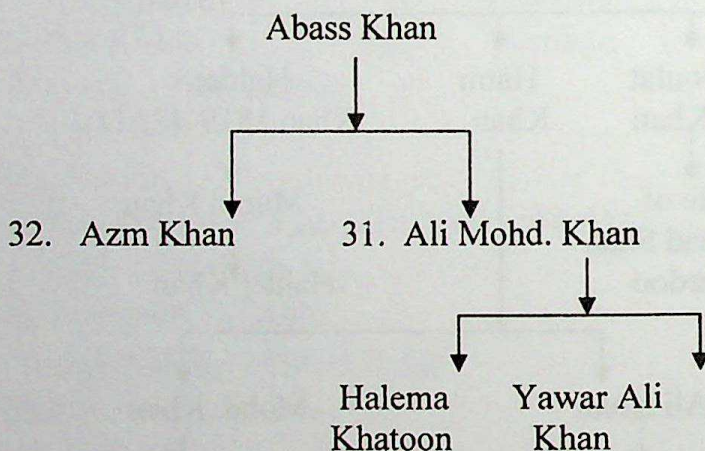
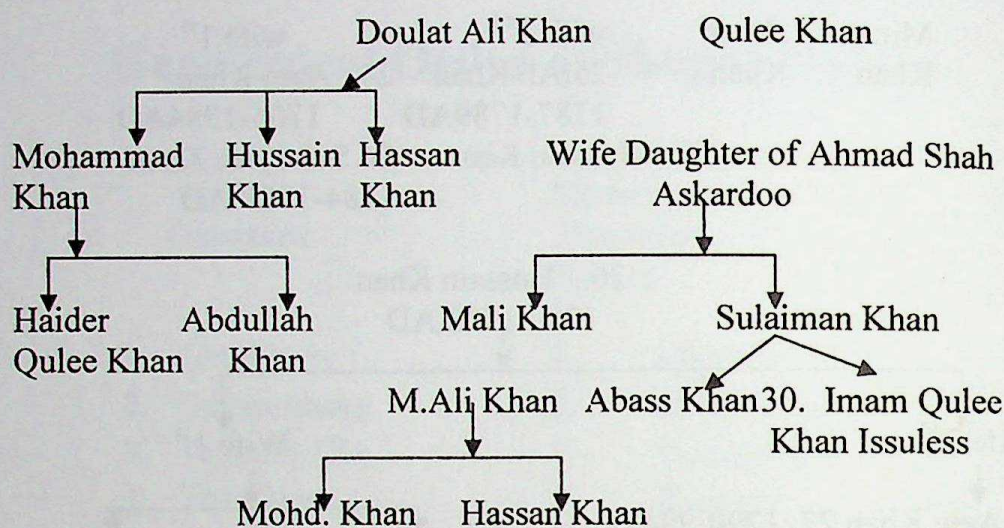
1. Chathum
2. Bolegothum
3. Yolegathum
4. Ramoon
5. Paikerdeen
6. Ram
7. Razithum
8. Aichthum

22 Imam Qulee Khan 1634-1705AD



Mirza Khan	Amir Khan	wife 2 nd 25. Ali Khan 1787-1789AD	wife 1 st 23. Azm Khan 1705-1784AD
		26. Hussain Khan	24. Sulaiman Khan 1784-1787 AD





Chapter- 3rd

HISTORY OF SHAGAR

Population

The initial habitants of this area are people from central Asia. Some of them after crossing Karokoram mountains via Braldo entered here and some travelling from Gilgit, Hunza and Nagar via Basha arrived here. As a tradition, these people first of all settled at the confluence of Nala Braldo and Basha and gradually developed it as a city, which was named Godu Cho. This location at present is deserted and there is no trace of habitation. However, a big pot of stones is lying between the pebbles of river, as a memorial of its founders. Its diameter is about three yards. It is recorded, that for big congregations, food was prepared in this pot for guests. Kachee, a type of food, prepared by cooking flour in water and was used as bread. Among ancient inhabitants the last nation named Khang were controlling it whose ruler Gaya Khang's genealogical order has been recorded as per research. It is clear as to which nation he belonged and from which country he came or his ancestors settled here.

During TaySatayCho period, the population was confined from Thomal upto Nala Braldo and Nala Basha upto younama Gandoo was also habitated. Habitation was on the increase in Shagr valley and the plain of Baha was also peopled. This wide plain is situated on left bank of Nala Braldo at a place. Where Nala Braldo leaving from narrow mountains enters Shagr valley. There is no habitation nowadays. It is said, that during Govt. Of

Jammu, efforts were made to resettle it and the canal was repaired, but due to flow of Nala, it was not successful, therefore the plain remained deserted. At present, Moulana Syed Abass by spending large amount of money, repaired the canal but due to Moulana's untimely death, it could not be accomplished.

Tay Satay Cho, constructed a magnificent fort near a hot water spring at Thomal for his residence. About this fort, there is a tradition, that an amount of Rupees one Lakh was spent in its construction and on this basis, it was named Lachee Khar i.e; Lakhee fort. Later on, this fort was destroyed during Apeesoo battle. Adjacent to this hot water spring, a heap of Satee, stones lies there about which it is thought, that these are the ruins of Lachee Khar. The plain with these marks is now deserted. However, the hot water spring is used for bathing by people.

During Tay Stay Cho's time, habitation started from lower side of Shagr valley. One man, named Apeesoo habitated Lemsaw. It was not known, as to which Apeesoo belong to. It is surmised, that he was from either Askardo or the neighboring areas of Askardo. Lemsaw is situated at the base of a mountain above the road below Kotal Satrang and Dagmoo. With this relation, this habitation was named Lemsaw i.e; habitation enroute. From here, towards Kohistan Shagr, the Nala situated on the left bank of Shagr, from Chambar and Jung, was also habitated but from this place towards downward side of Shagr valley there has been no habitation.

During that period, Kaisar Gayalpo, whose tales are still famous throughout Ladakh and are sung with pride on Harmonium at ceremonies and whose events are recorded in a voluminous book of poetry, has come from Ladakh to this country and went upto Randoo. For some time, he stayed at Askardoo and married here. After some time he returned to Ladakh. About him, it is said, that this man was resident of village Hardass of Rondoo area. Somehow, he assumed power

and later on, established his control on Lhasa, Turkistan and Afghanistan. The Ladakhi's still remember his name but the details about his conquests could not be ascertained, because this event relates to the beginning of habitation in Ladakh, for which there is no historical record.

In short, Apeesoo's offspring's controlled Lower part of Shagr valley and Gaya Khang's sons ruled upper parts including Nalas Braldo and Basha. Chapakhang had two sons, Sher Batan and Masheed. Among them, the elder one Sher Batan succeeded his father as ruler and Masheed was provided subsistence at Goma Gondu and he constructed a small palace, Pol Pol Khar, by name, there and resided in it.

Godu Cho was capital of this dynasty. The people of this area were well off. A big fair was used to be held here, in which people from all habitations were participating and were enjoying drinking, dancing and eating. Once upon a time, a Fakir visited this fair. He questioned but due to involvement in drinking no body attended towards him. At last, an old woman gave him a bread. He took half of bread himself and returned half to the old woman and said to her to leave the place, with eating bread. The spot where you will finish the bread, see backwards. She as per the directives of fakir left from that place and arrived at Mangoja. From there she saw that a flood carrying clay was flowing from Godochow mountain and destroyed Godochow habitation. This old woman stayed there and her sons settled Mungo which is developed till date.

This tradition confirms that due to this flood, this habitation was destroyed and this flood came from the adjoining mountain or from Nala Basha and covered the habitation. Such events took place in this country often and on. This flood occurred due to incessant rains on the mountains and formation of Lakes inside Nalas due to Galaciers and breaking of it walls. Now this place is a desert and there are pebbles everywhere. It is

the habitat for wild animals. Its surface of earth is not about the height of Nala Bashas's surface.

In short, the Govt. of Sher Button came to an end due to this natural disaster and his brother Musheed succeeded him. He was very cruel and cunning. Within short period of time, people were worried. During that period, Muglote, Raja Hunza, attacked Chathan, Raja of Nagar and captured Nagar. Chatham Raja Nagar, absconded from his country via Nala, absconded from his country via Nala Basha and arrived Gandoo. For some days he moved here and there. Later on, he was servant of Musheed. Gradually he influenced people and was even appointed as special advisor of Musheed. Since people were against Musheed, due to his oppression, the noble's advised Chatham, that if you murder Musheed, we will accept you as Raja of this country. Therefore, Chathan conspired with people and when arrangements were made, then one day finding an opportunity he killed Musheed and controlled Govt. His dynasty became famous by name of Amacha, Tham, in ?Hunza, Nagar Language means Raja and his name is Cha. This dynasty was holding the Govt. till Dogra dynasty and like other Rajgan's are Jagiradars in Shagr area of Baltistan.

Chatham was stable in that location and established his Govt. throughout area and his supporters who had absconded from Nagar, assembled there. His son Yulagotham settled them in Nala Basha. In this way, different tribes settled in this Nala. Likewise, those Kirghiz's who were living around Karkoram Mountains, added to the population of Nala Braldo and strengthened his Govt.

From Chatham to Goritham, ten generations have been recognized, whose conditions are not known. It is recorded, that they gradually increased their population even they dissolved the Govt. of Apeesoo and established their control on Basha, Bralso and valley of Shagr.

Ghazi Thum was son of Gori Thum. As a tradition, during Ghazi Thum's time, Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer, Mir Syed Ali Hamdani^{RA} came to Askardoo and Shagr via Kashmir route and began to preach Islam. He laid the foundation of Amborak mosque. But as a fact, they said Syed visited Kashmir during Sultan, Qutub-u-deen Shah's era and after returning from Kashmir left for his heavenly abode at Kabeer on 6th Zilhaj 786 Hijra. In this context, his visit to Baltistan does not prove historically. Perhaps, the visit of one of his caliphs has been attached with him. As a fact, Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer's caliph Hazrat Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh who died in 869 Hijra, visited this country in about 850 Hijra and laid the foundation of Islam in this country. Ghazi Thum was Raja of Shagr at that time. He took an oath of allegiance at the hands of Syed Shaib and embraced Islam. His Islamic name was Ghazi Meer and became famous later on. Therefore, Ghazi Meer's era should be about 850 Hijra. Perhaps, it is that period, when Gota Cho Sangay and Shah Azm were rulers at Askardoo and Khaplu respectively.

In this manner, Ghazi Mir's period is related with history, which extend from 1440-1470 AD. But before it, upto ten generations, nothing is known about the conditions and the period of rule. Mathematically, if every generation is agreed to be of thirty years, then Chathums period is 1140 AD and before it, if ten generations of Khang dynasty are arranged in the same way, then Gaya Khangz origin should be close to 840 AD. But since there is no recorded account of history in Ladakh, therefore setting up historical dates is difficult.

Ghazi Mir was succeeded by Ali Mir and Gazree as Raja's respectively. Nothing is known about Ali Mir's rule upto Gazree's period, the population in Shagr valley had touched Chorka and Neyalee. He cleared the forest below Shagr and settled people from Yarkand, Hunza and Nagar here. He

constructed a small palace on the top of Boongaree Mountain and rejecting Gundu established his capital at a new settlement.

An important event of his era relates that Meer Sham-uy-deen Iraqi entered Baltistan via Kashmir. At that time, Bokha in Askardoo and Roy.Behram in Khaplu were rulers. Habib Cho was Raja of Pooreeg. Mir Shaib propagated Imamia religion at Shagr. Ghazree's son, Abdiullah Khan embraced this religion.

There is a strange event of Gazree's. period, which proves his courage, intelligence and sound policies. He in association with Habib Cho, Raja Soot, Askardoo and Raja Khaplku attacked Ladakh. Gayalpo thought it better to avoid confrontation with such big army and was confined to fort. His fort was so strong, that enemy did not succeed and siege continued for long. The allies became worried. Gazree said, that I can overpower fort on the condition that the whole booty shall be provided to me. The rest three allies accepted his conditions.,

During night, Gaszree removed his men from fort and in the morning whatever horses, Asses and ox's were available with him, carried clay upon them near the fort. The besieged people thought that adequate supplies have arrived for the enemy. They were discouraged. Later on, Gazree began to cultivate land. The Ladakhis asked what are you going to do? Ghazree replied, that siege is taking time. We are accustomed of taking watermelons. It is not known, when we shall leave from here therefore, we began to cultivate water melons. On seeing it, the Ladakhi's were discouraged and presenting enough cash and kind, were released.

Now, this army returned back. Enroute, the three allies of Gazree changed their intentions. Gazree observed it. Reaching Damkhar, he cheated Raja Khaplu, by saying that what shall he do with so much cash and kind at Shagr. I have a daughter and you marry your son with her and keep this whole property with you as dowry. He was trapped and agreed. When both

associated, Raja Askardoo and Raja Soot, failed to grab the property.

When parties were making arrangements for marriage, Gazree sent message to Raja Khaplu, that as a tradition, depute your noble's that they shall carry the bride. The Barat left with great Pomp and Show. When arrived Shagr, Gazree served them a grand feast and later on, imprisoned all of them during night and said, that till my whole property alongwith details, is not sent to me, it is impossible to release you. Raja Khaplu when came to know about it, he was sorry for his mistake. But he was compelled. He returned whole property and got his noble's released and all three allies were high and dry. The name of Khaplu and Askardoo could not be traced out. It is possible, that Gazreer's siege holders may be Roy Behram and Makpoon Bokha.

Gazree was succeeded by his son Abdullah Khan as Raja. As per tradition, Sultan Syed Khan Ruler of Kashgar's attack on Baltistan, took place during Abdullah Khan's era. Through as per "Tarikh-e-Rashidee", the Sultan's conquest of Shagr stands recorded, but Raja Shagr's name is absent. However, Khaplu at that time was ruled by Behram Raja.

Attack of Sultan Syed Khan Shah Yarkand 939 Hijra (1532 A.D.)

Sultan Syed Khan Shah yarkand, with one thousand soldiers, attended towards Batlee from Maryul (Ladakh) in 939 Hijra (1532 AD) and arrived Batli in the beginning of winter season. Behram Cho, followed his dictates and was employed. Other Batli sphereds resisted. Before Behram Cjho's guidance, fort Askardo which was capital of Batli countries was conquered during first attack. Men were killed, while women and property

was possessed by the conquerors. Beside, mountains, forts and passes were left out. During beginning of spring Shah returned from Batli to Ladakh.

Abdullah Khan's son Haider Khan, increased population of Nala Braldo and inviting Yarkandi nomads and settled them on extreme villages of Satwan and Askolee. Through them, he established diplomatic links with Yarkand Empire and decided about Shagr Yarkand boundary. Karokoram Mountain was fixed as the boundary limit.

The diplomat from Yarkand alongwith one hundred soldiers were deputed at Shagr and Shagr's representative also deployed at Yarkand. Later on, the movement of Yarkandi merchants began in Baltistan and Shagr people established their links with Yarkand. With it, first trees, i.e; peaches; Apricots, Grapes, Apples and walnuts etc. were brought from Yarkand, Hunza and Nagar and planted at Shagr. The grafts of these plants were also brought from the same country. The Apricots were most suited for this country and were better than their original country in taste, shape and size. At present, scores of Varieties of Apricots are prevalent in Baltistan among which some varieties after drying retain sweatness and taste like dates of Iraq.

On extreme habitations of Nalas Braldo and Basha, one fort on each location was constructed for security purposes and soliders were deputed inside them. The ruins of these forts are still present near Taysatoon and Aarandoo.

The diplomatic relations with Yarkand were maintained till Mohammadf Khan's era and there was great progress in Shagr area due to settlement of Yarkandiz. The people are civilized and sociable which distinguishes Baltistan from its neighbours. During rule of successors of Abdullah Khan, from Haider Khan to Mohammad Khan, two brothers Shah Nazir Tosee and Syed Ali Tosee, arrived Shagr via Thalay. They preached Islam in Shagr and constructed mosques with

residential rooms. Such type of Mosques in Baltistan and Kashmir are called Khankah. Nothing is known about events of Hamid Khan, Rozee Khan and Sultran Khan and from Haider Khan to Sultan Khan. It is possible, that these names may be fictions. Thereafter, Mohammad Khan became the Raja. No event about his period is known. After his death, Abdal Khan Raja Askardoo attacked Shagr. It is said, that Mohammad Khan had twelve sons and all of them were imprisoned by Abdal Khan and sent them to different villages for murder. The eleven boys were killed in different villages. The eldest one, Hassan Khan was sent to Goma Gundu. The people of this village were very kind to him and sent him secretly to Kashmir with provisions of Journey, alongwith their men. He as a wanderer arrived Delhi and for some time was wandering there. In the meantime, the Emperor of Delhi left for hunting lions. Hassan Khan also accompanied the companions of King. Incidentally, the King had to confront lion and lion attacked King. Hassan Khan was close by. He moved ahead and axed lion into two parts. With this event, the King was interested towards Hassan Khan and was influential in darbar Shahi. The King enquired about his past life. Hassan Khan, finding an opportunity, relieved the whole story of Abdal Khan's oppression. On that occasion, Adam Khan was also in Delhi. He also helped him and requested King for the redressal. The King ordered Nawab of Kashmir, that Hassan Khan be restored his inheritance. Therefore, Hassan Khan alongwith Kashmir army entered Askardoo and arresting Abdal Khan, brought him to Shagr and controlled his country. These events are recorded in the History of Askardoo, therefore, it is recorded briefly, here.

Abdal Khan, spent rest of his life in Shagr prison and died under same conditions. His concrete dome shaped grave is still present in the royal graveyard of Shagr. About Abdal Khan, it is

said, that he was very cruel and cunning and was therefore titled as "Man eater".

Hassan Khan invited carpenters, washermen, cobblers, Goldsmiths, Blacksmiths and Sculpotors from Hindustan and settled them at Shagr. He developed trade and industry throughout country the signs of which are still present in the country and by which Shagr is famous throughout Baltistan. He rejected Boongre Khar also known as DoongKhar and constructed a palace on the right side of Nala Shagr named as Phoong Khar and made it as his capital. The Rajgan Shagr resides in this Palace till date and the building is in good condition. During Hassan Khan's period, in place of Yarkandi diplomat, an employee from Kashmir was deputed to Shagr, who was titled as Thanedar by people. In short, in this way, the Delhi Wmpire controlled Shagr.

Imam Qulee Khan 1634-1705 A.D.

Hassan Khan was not fortunate to rule for a long time, as he died after brief period of his government. His son was Hasan Qulee Khan, but there is hardly any historical record about him. Perhaps, he passed away during his father's lifetime. His son, Imam Qulee Khan succeeded him. During his long course of rule, several big revolutions took place in Baltistan, which are explained in "Shagr Nama". Raja Imam Qulee Khan have been a great Raja and he had his influence in Gilgit upto Broshawl on one side and on the other side, his influence extended upto Ladakh. In short, this Raja was an outstanding figure from every domain.

Azam Khan 1705-1784 A.D.

Imam Qulee had two sons, among which Azm Khan was elder who was from Karas Rani and Amir Khan was cousin of Raja Karas and Mohammad Rafi Khan was son in law of Raja Askardoo. The youngest was Ali Khan, who was from Rani of Gazwapa wazirs of Shagr dynasty. Azam Khan succeeded his father. Since Gazwapa wazirs wielded great influence in Shagr, therefore, he was always under threat from Ali Khan. Therefore, in order to get rid from Ali Khan he deputed Ali Khan along with his wazir Gazwapa Mohammad on a diplomatic mission to Yarkand. This wazir belonged to Mohammad Mamoon Ali Khan. In his place, he appointed Doozuk as his wazir.

In short, after salvation from his enemies, Azm Khan was magnetised towards territorial aggrandizement. During that period, the Afghans from Kashmir attacked Askardoo and subdued Murad Khan, which created disturbances throughout country. In this way, Azm Khan was benefitted and he invited Sultan Murad Raja Askardoo for consultations at Shagr. It was decided secretly that when Sultan Murad reaches centre of river, he shall be drowned in the river. Therefore, he was killed while crossing river Shagr. Afterwards Azm Khan made accession of Askardoo with Shagr and appointed Munaypa Ali as Kharpoon i.e; ruler of Askardoo. Azm Khan's one more memorable work, which my friend Syed Abass Resident of Choor has recorded is as under.

Event of Syed Mukhtar and Syed Yahya

During Raja Azm Khan's period, two brothers, Syed Mukhtar and Syed Yahya entered Shagr. Raja honored them and

made arrangements for their living. Both brothers stayed here. The Raja was attending their majlis daily and was discussing about Sharia matters with them. Syed Mukhtar was an eloquent speaker and a great scholar. Due to his personal attraction and Rajas support, all the noble's and people visited both these Syed brothers. Within few days, there was so hustle and bustle in their darbar, that Raja's darbar lost its attraction. Raja became envious and was ready to kill them. He consulted his wazirs, one of the wazirs advised, that it is not humane to kill a man who has been patronized. The second one said, that all people of Shagr are their followers and till they are alive, they won't be out of their fold and neither they can be influenced by some other person. It is better to position them by deceit through an old woman.

The gate keeper of king was listening. Since he was follower of Syeed brothers, he went to Sayeed brothers and informed them about the plan. On hearing it, they left towards Chorka during night and resided at Mohalla Mummo Chonemu and informed followers accordingly. Within few days all people from Chorka to Braldo and from Braldo to Neyalec became followers of Sayeeds and constructed a hut on the bank of river at Mohalla Mumochonemo, which was so strong that not even a bird can enter. In this way, both these brothers were out of Raja's control and Raja was losing his Govt. some villages stopped to pay taxes. The wazirs receiving reinforcement from Nur people, attacked people of upper areas but were defeated. At last, dispatched a letter to Syed Yahya through that old woman that in case you handover Syed Mukhtar to us, we will built a residential house and a Jamia Masjid for you at Shagr Main and you will be appointed as the Imam of whole Shagr and we all will follow you.

When Syed Yahya received this letter, he thought that one day a brother has to separate from a brother. So long I am with Syed Muhtar, I feel like his servant. No body takes care about

me. It is better, that I shall hand him over to Raja and shall associate myself with Raja, because no other place than Shagr can't be available for me and my sons. After this decision, he recorded on the back of letter the following statement.

"Samanah Wa Aatanah, Tomorrow it is Thursday. When Syed Mukhtar, remains so busy in prayers that he is not careful about his life. You attack during night and lay an ambush near the fort. When Syed Mukhtar will be engrossed in silent prayers, I shall throw fire out of window of fort and shall open the door of fort. You must enter the fort and arrest him. During day, I will visit Raja to pay salams".

Raja was very pleased by his reply and attacked the Syed fort named Beeru Gayalmo during night. Syed Yahya after throwing out fire opened the door and went to sleep. The Raja's men, entered the fort. When Syed Mukhtar's wife heard the noise, she ran quickly and went to Syed Mukhtar's hut and related the whole event and said, what are you doing here Go. Syed Mukhtar went out from a secret door and early in the morning arrived Karas. Raja's men were engaged in loot and plunder of fort belongings during night. Then arresting Syed Mukhtar's wife and two sons imprisoned them. Raja was informed about conquest.

Early in the morning two sons of Syed Mukhtar were tied with ropes like thieves in a desert of Thoongmo-darang and were martyred after standing in sand through arrow. The imprints of these graves are still present here and for this reason, this place is famous by the name of "Shrine of Innocents". The two boys were named Abdullah and Syed Baqar.

The booty and Beeru Gayalmo were carried to Raja. He distributed booty among these cruel men. Syed Yahya, disguised as a scholar and saint holding rosary in his hand, was present to offer salams to Raja. Raja received him warmly and said to him that you have fulfilled your promise. Now, it is upto us to keep

our promise. Whatever place you like, do inform, so that a residential house and a Jamia Masjid be constructed for you. He identified a place on the bank of a Nala near a bridge. Assembling Shagr people, arranged for the same. The timber from fort Beeru Gayalmo was brought to use in the residential house and Jamia Masjid. It is said, that Masjid was constructed in one year. Later on, Raja fixed stipend per family for Syed Yahya, which continued for his sons till land settlement. Later on, it stopped. Now their offspring's are begging throughout Mohallas.

When Beeru Gayalmo entered Raja's fort Sher was disturbed due to separation of her sons and husband. Then she stood for "Namaz" after ablution and passed away during prostration and was buried in the graveyard of Rajgan. The imprints of her grave still exist. Syed Mukhtar reached Kars. There he was received warmly by Raja, wazir and Public. From Kars to Chora Bhat, people constructed residential house and Jamia Masjid for him within few days and people as per their will, agreed to pay eight Paymanah food grains, generation after generation, to Syed Mukhtar and were responsible for his security.

Raja Khaplu wrote to Syed Mukhtar, that if permitted, he will take revenge from Shagr people and arrangements shall be made for you at Shagr. Syed replied, that both killer and the killed are liable for hell. I can't allow you to do the same. The people of this side are responsible for my security and leaving them is against human values. In case, anything untoward happens then at that time there is no alternative but to approach you. In short, the said Syed constructed Masjids, Jamia and Mohalla, from Kars to Chora Bhat and appointed his disciples for preaching in these mosques. Till date, his offspring's are controlling these religious seats.

Later on, people of Shagr complained that how long they will associate with Syed Qutub-u-deen. Appoint someone among four sons as care taker. The Syed proposed Syed Najim-u-deen, among his grandsons, for this service\ He went to Shagr and a house and a Jamia Masjid was built at village Badreppa and he was revered highly.

Then Choraka people requested him to depute a scholar for them. He sent Syed Abu-al-Hassan. He resided at village Khenmeka. People built mosque and a house for him and he continued his work there. Abu-al-Hassan was a great scholar. His publications are available till date.

At the time of Sultan Murad's death his son Mohammad Zaffar Khan was a minor. He absconded towards Pooreeg and lived there for five years as refugee. During that period, Raja Azm Khan was not interested towards it. But Zaffar Khan was engaged in his middle age.

But due to his middle age and helplessness, he had no influence. But after such a long period, circumstances were favorable. Ali Shah and wazir Mohammad Joo, were exiled on pretext of diplomatic mission to Yarkand and returned after completion of their assignment. They entered Pooreeg via Ladakh. They by Chance, met Mohammad Zaffar Khan there and revealed his sad story about Baltistan. They were already aggrieved with Azm Khan. They thought it to be an opportunity and by helping this oppressed boy, were ready to oppose Azm Khan. But they were high & dry and Peniless due to distant journey. Zaffar Khan was also without any resources. At last, they deputed wazir Mohammad to Zaffar Khan's foster father, Sosopa, to Askardoo, for getting some financial assistance. Sosopa, inspite of helping arrested wazir Mohammad and handed him over to Azm Khan's Kharpoon, namely Ali. He informed Azm Khan at Shagr who reached Askardoo and wazir Mohammad was targeted by arrows in a desert, without any

crime. Zaffar Khan and Ali Khan were arrested from Pooreeg. Zafar Khan was imprisoned at Moonkar at Shagr while Ali Khan was exiled to Nagar. Likewise, Azm Khan, make his way clear but created difficult conditions for himself.

Sulaiman Khan 1784-1787 A.D.

Azam Khan's Rani Fakhru-Nisa, who was Sultan Murad's sister, was disturbed on observing his husband's activities and destruction of her ancestral dynasty. Therefore, she got divorce from her husband and received Mohalla Barnak of village Kawardoo as mehr. After separation she was involved in making plans about destruction of her husband. She through weali, who was material brother of wazir Mohammad and father of Fakur-u-Nisa's son, Suliman was successful to create revolt at Shagr against Azm Khan. In this melee, Azm Khan was killed and his younger son Suliman Khan was recognized as his successor. Suliman Khan was a minor and was living at Askardoo with his mother. The said Wali was appointed as his wazir and Wali, till adulthood of Suliman Khan, in Shagr and Mohammad Zaffar Khan was released from prison to assume thrown.

Ali Khan 1787-1789 A.D.

When Sulaiman Khan attained adulthood, his faithful foster father and wazir Wali came to Askardoo to call him to hand over Govt. to him. Sulaiman Khan during interaction enquired from Wali, "that who killed my father?" wazir replied, that Shagr people killed him during revolt. The boy said, that

those miscreants who got killed my father, will be divided into pieces by me. Wali was himself responsible for creating these disturbances. This created fear in his mind and began to plan for his security. Therefore, when he was returning back to Shagr with Sulaiman Khan, enroute at Satrang Doongmoon, he killed Suliaman Khan and buried his corpse there and arriving Sgagr, called Ali Khan, elder brother of Azm Khan, back, to establish Govt. of Shagr. Ali Khan appointed late wazir Mohammad's son, Hussain as wazir and got his belongings back from Doozukpa. Therefore, a house of Gazwapa wazir's is still present as a memorial. Azm Khan died issuess due to his treachery.

Hussain Khan 1789-1790 A.D.

Ali Khan in exile, had married and a boy named Hussain Khan was Hussain Khan succeeded him. No remarkable event has taken place during his brief period of rule.

Azm Khan (i)1790 AD,(ii)1799 AD, (iii)1813 AD-1818 AD Qulee Khan (i)1790 AD,(ii)18000-1818 AD,(iii)1818-1819AD

Hussain Khan had three sons. The elder was Azm Khan who was from Khaplu Rani. second, Qulee Khan and Doulat Khan, who was from Ali Sher Khan II, Raja Askardoo's sister. After Hussain Khan's death, his elder brother, Azm Khan succeeded him. But younger son, Qulee Khan on the basis of reinforcements from Askardoo, created disturbances. Ali Sher Khan attacked Azm Khhan with assistance from Qulee Khan.

Azm Khan flee towards Khplu and Imam Khan assumed the Govt.

Mohammad Ali Khan was Raja of Khaplu at that time. He was ready to help Azm Khan, but during that time, the conditions were not stable, therefore, he did nothing practically. Azm Khan spent nine years at Khaplu with hope for reinforcements. After that time, Mohammad Ali Khan attacked Shagr. Qulee Khan confronted but was defeated and absconded to Askardoo and Azm Khan again captured the Govt. of Shagr. At that time, Askardoo was governed by Raja Ahmad Shah. After few years, Ahmad Shah with assistance from Qulee Khan invaded Azm Khan. Azm Khan confronted but was defeated and absconded towards Khaplu, again and Qulee Khan captured Govt. of Shagr for second time.

On his arrival at Khaplu, Azm Khan married a Pachokee girl, who gave birth to two sons, Haider Khan and Hatam Khan, two daughters, Doulat Khatoon and Hsalima Khatoon. Likewise, this time he spent twelve years in exile. Thereafter with help from Khaplu, he again attacked Shagr. Qulee Khan was unable to face attack and went to Askardoo as a refugee. Azam Khan captured Govt. for third time, but after rule of few years, he passed away. After Azam Khan's death, his son Haider Khan was minor. Qulee Khan finding an opportunity captured Askardoo and then Shagr, but died very soon.

Haider Khan **1819-1842 A.D.**

After his death, the conditions were, topsy-turvy. Azam Khan's daughter, Doulat Khatoon, who was Par excellence, in prettiness, married to Ahmad Shah. In turn, he recognized Azm Khan's minor son, Haider Khan as nominee as head of Shagr,

with Govt. in his own hands. This arrangement continued till Haider Khan attained adulthood. Later on, the Govt. was handed over to Haider Khan under such circumstances, Qulee Khan's own sons were deprived of their father's inheritance.

There are no big events about Ahmad Shah's Govt. of Shagr and Haider Khan's Rajgee Shagr. During invasion by wazir Zorawar Singh Kalooria, Haider Khan was Raja of Shagr. Wazir also recognized him as Raja, but in Pooreeg, after killing of said wazir, Haider Khan revolted and controlled Askardoo. During wazir Lakhpath's last expedition, Haider Khan was arrested and was brought to Jammu alongwith his family and he died at Jammu. Murad Khan after death of his father Haider Khan, returned back to Shagr from Jammu. His offspring's still exist.

Imam Qulee Khan 1842 A.D.

During wazir Lakhpat's expedition Sulaiman Khan, son of Qulee Khan, Raja Shagr had already died, but his sons were present. His stars were lucky and wazir Lakhapt, recognized Imam Qulee Khan, son of Suliaman Khan, as Raja Shagr and awarded some area of Shagr for his subsistence and handed over his inherited property. For administrative purposes of the country, the wazir appointed a Thanedar at Shagr and some army was deployed at Shagr for his security. For his residence, a fort was built on the right bank of Nala Shagr.

Imam Qulee Khan died issueless. His brother Abass Khan was a Lunatic. His Jagir for some time was under possession of Govt. Then Abass Khan's minor son, Ali Mardan Khan went Jammu to follow his case. It is said, that half of his Jagir was released. For other half, it was ordered that after Ali Mardan

Khan's adult age, report be submitted, which was never followed and Ali Mardan Khan had to depend upon the one half. Ali Mardan Khan died in 1331 Haijra leaving a daughter Halima Khatoon. From that time, his younger brother Azm Khan is Raja of Shagar.

Genealogical order of Rajgan Khaplu,

**compiled by Raja Ali Sher Khan,
Head Jagirdar Khaplu**

1. Sultan Sikander Azm
2. Sultan Ibraheem
3. Sultan Ishaq
4. Sultan Abdal Rahimad
5. Meer Baraheer
6. Arman Samaheer
7. Beeshrab Num
8. Tum Lu Tung
9. Sultan Merhmood Mir Ghazi
10. Sultan Mehdi Gazali
11. Mehdi Ibraheem
12. Malik Haider Shah
13. Sultan Malik Ghazali
14. Sultan Malik Shah
15. Sultan Junaid Shah
16. Haider Shah
17. Haider Karar
18. Shah Ibraheem
19. Sultan Jawaher Fanee
20. Najam-ul-Mulluckh
21. Malik Rustom
22. Mehdi Meer
23. Malik Meer
24. Malik Jabar
25. Saed ullah Khan
26. Saed Qaroon Beigh
27. Saed Jaleel Khan
28. Saed Rustom Beigh

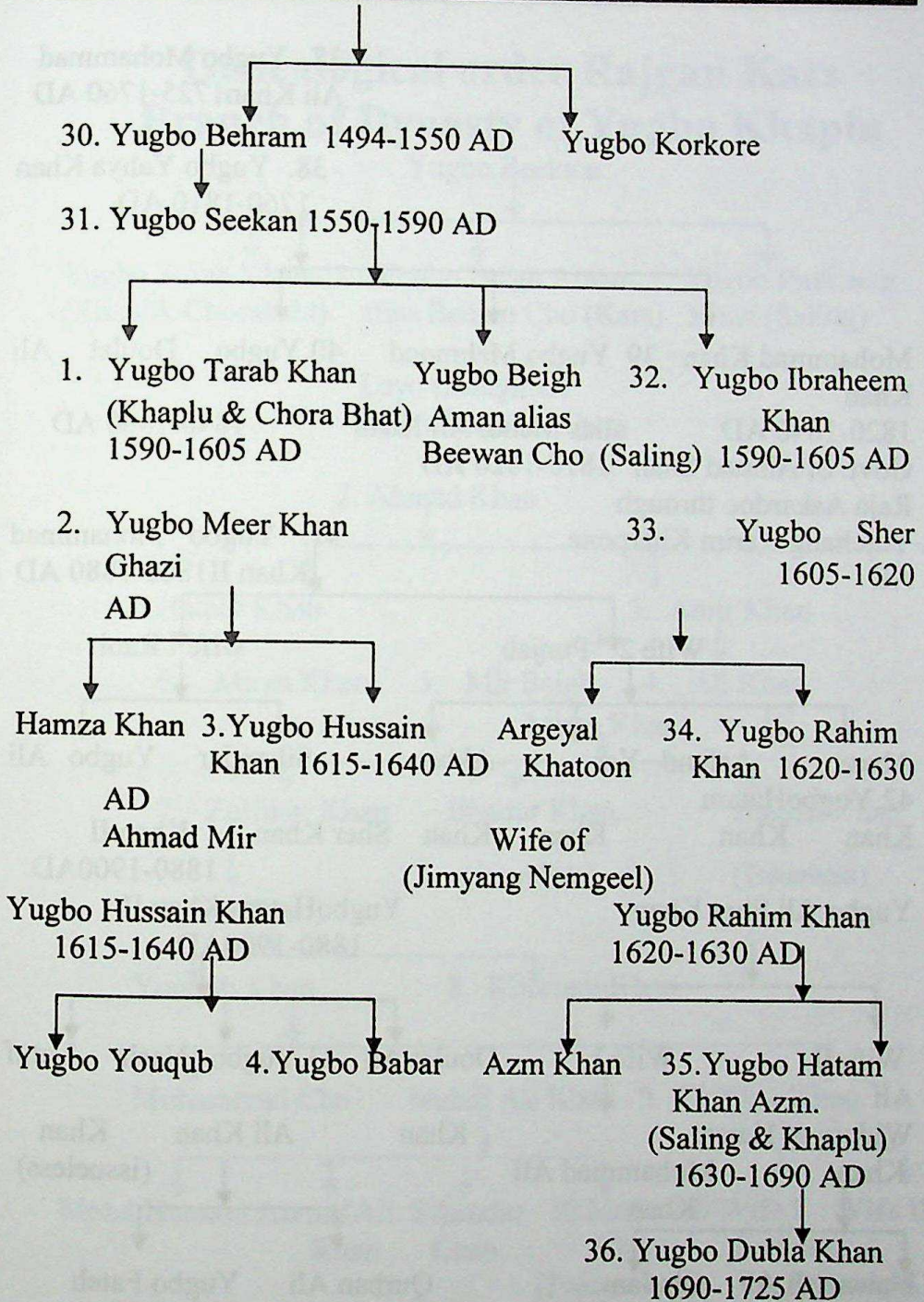
29. Attaullah Khan
30. Saed Khalil Khan
31. Saed Youqub Khan
32. Saed Mir Ghazi
33. Saed Malik Purnoor
34. Saed Babar Malik
35. Saed Mohkem Khan
36. Saed Shah Azeem Beigh
37. Saed Gowhar Beigh
38. Saed Malik Shah Shujah
39. Sultan Yugbo.
40. Yugbo Lateef Beigh
41. Yugbo Sher Ghazi
42. Yugboi Ahmad Ghazi
43. Yugbo Noor Ghazi
44. Yugbo Aalamgir Ghazi
45. Yugbo Beewan Cho
46. Yugbo Hul Ghazi
47. Yugbo Sher Ghazi
48. Yugbo Beigh Mantar
49. Yugbo Turab Khan
50. Sultan Salmondy
51. Sultan Braeldy
52. Sultan Mulluck Bal
53. Sultan Arzwana
54. Sultan Teekam
55. Sultan Beekam
56. Sultan Kore Kore
57. Sultan Behram
58. Sultan Seekam
59. Sultan Mir Khan
60. Sultan Ibraheem
61. Sultan Ghazi Mir Cho

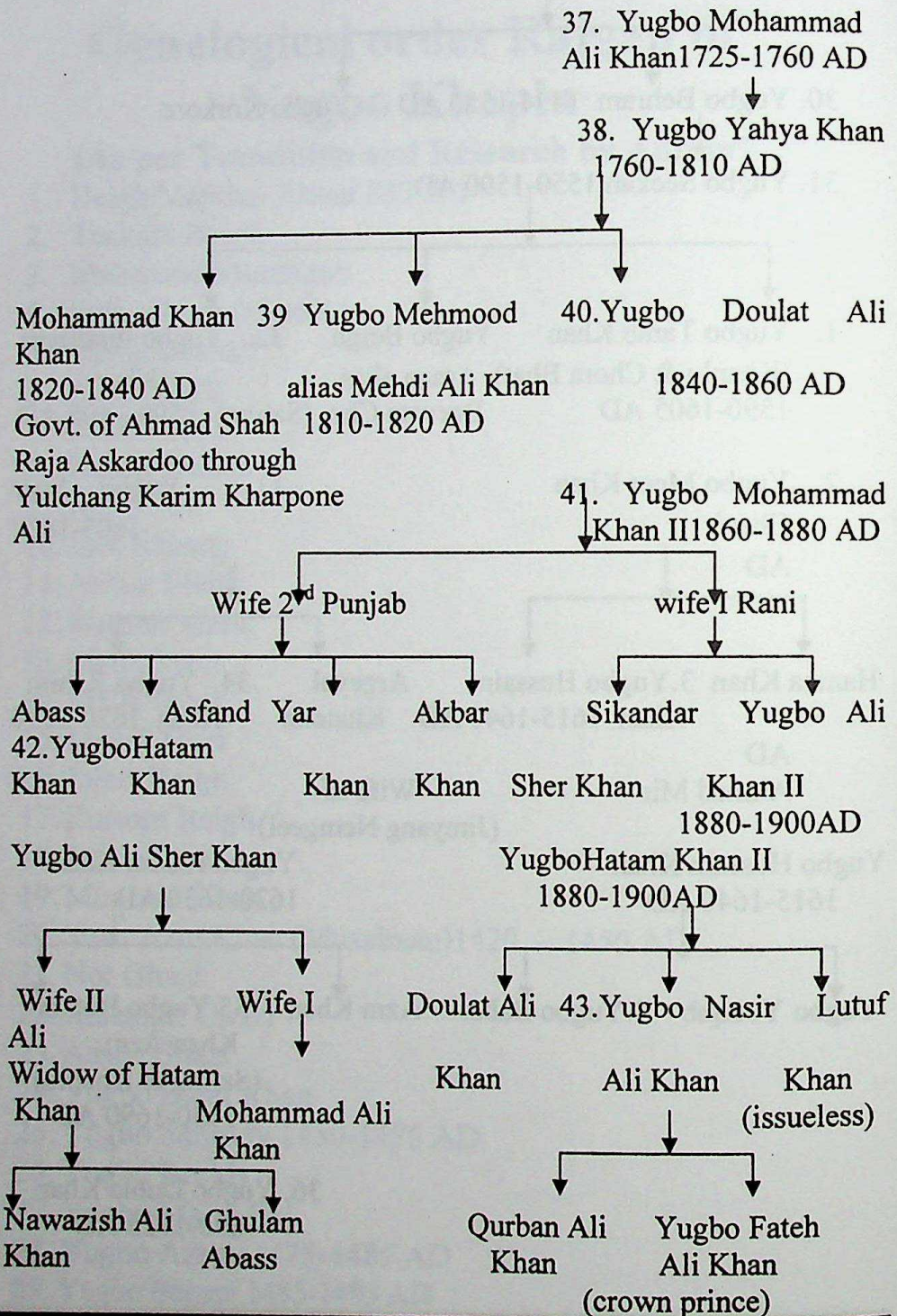
62. Sultan Hussain Khan
63. Sultan Rahim Khan
64. Sultan Hatam Khan
65. Sultan Doulat Ali Khan
66. Sultan Mohammad Ali Khan
67. Sultan Yahya Khan
68. Sultan Doulat Ali Khan
69. Sultan Mohammad Ali Khan
70. Sultan Hatam Khan
71. Sultan Nasir Ali Khan.

Genelological order Rajgan of Yugbo Khaplu

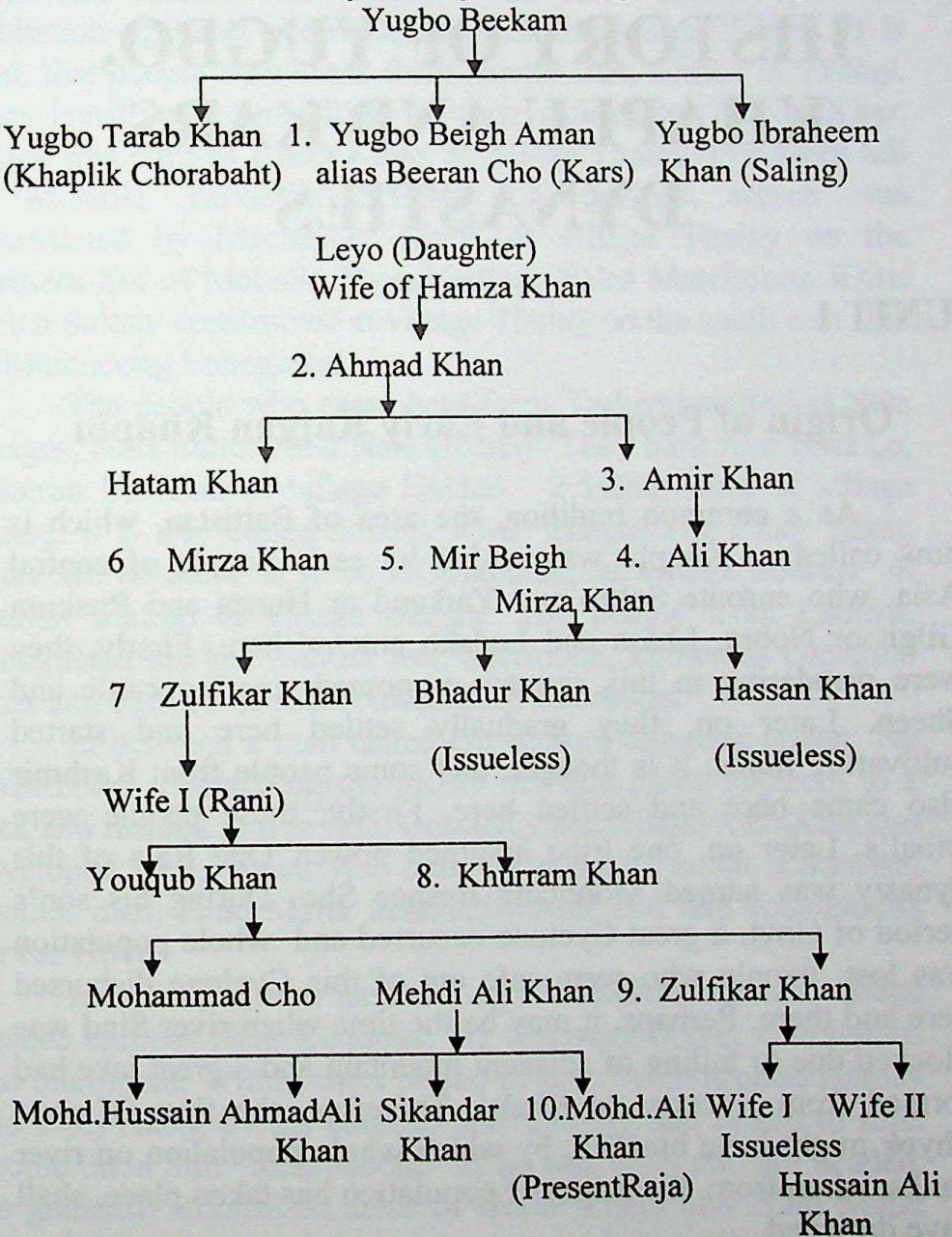
(As per Treadition and Research by Author)

1. Beigh Manthal About 850 AD
2. Teekam Beigh
3. Mehmood Mazdaqali
4. Sultan Mehd Gazali
5. Malik Goshali
6. Malik Shah
7. Junaid Shah
8. Haider Kowar
9. Malik Mir
10. Joor Khanay
11. Aalam Malik
12. Rustom Malik
13. Malik Meer
14. Malik Jabar
15. Mehdi Meer
16. Jaleel Beigh
17. Rustom Beigh
18. Talab Khan
19. Muqeem Khan
20. Shah Azm Khan (Musalman) 1420 - 1450 AD
21. Nor Ghazi
22. Aalamgir Ghazi
23. Aasee Ghazi
24. Yugbo Barat Khan
25. Yugbo Salimdy 1450-1475 AD
26. Yugbo Broldy
27. Yugbo Malik Bal
28. Yugbo Azroo 1475-1485 AD
29. Yugbo Begam 1485-1495 AD





Genealogical order Rajgan Kars Branch of Dynasty of Yugbo Khaplu



Chapter – 4th

HISTORY OF YUGBO, KHAPLU AND KARS DYNASTIES

UNIT I

Origin of People and Early Rajgan Khaplu

As a common tradition, the area of Baltistan, which is now called as Khaplu was settled by early people of contral Asia, who enroute Saltro and Yarkand or Hunza and Ruskum Gilgit or Nobra, Lhasa and Ladakh entered here. Firstly, they were wandering in this country as nomads rearing cattle and Sheep. Later on, they gradually settled here and started cultivating fields. It is thought, that some people from Kashmir also came here and settled here. Firstly, these people were tribal's. Later on, one tribe assumed power. One Raja of this dynasty was named Mohotang Beshee Sho. During his son's period of Govt. a great Cyclone occurred and whole population was lost. People who were safe out of this Cyclone disbursed here and there. Perhaps, it may be the time when river Sind was blocked due to falling of adjacent mountain and a great lake had formed from Kachora to Khalsi. Therefore, the flow of river Shyok might have blocked, by which whole population on river banks, wherefrom, the origin of population has taken place, shall have drowned.

Lastly, this dam which had blocked flow of river Sind, disintegrated gradually and lake water discharged slowly and then land surface was visible. After some time, there was habitation again as people from other areas settled here. It is said, that people who came from Hunza side, settled at Thalay. They constructed three forts for their safety, one Cheng Khar, which was built by Cheer Khan, at village Thalay on eastern hill of Mohalla Yarkhore. Second, ChhogoKhar, which was constructed by Machcheer Khan, at village Thalay on the northern hill of Mohalla ThoroNagoos. Third Marchoong Khar, which Sultan constructed at village Thalay on the south east side of Marchoong Loneguma.

The people who came here from Yarkand settled at Nala Thagus, Nala Saltoro and Nala Hoshay. They built four forts i.e; 1. Satran Po Khar at village Haldee 2. Saling Khar at village Saling. It is also called Sandok Khar. Thagus and Chay Thang cities are adjacent to it. 3. Khrikokhar, at village Khirko 4. Budgar Sikkim at village Badgar. The people from Ladakh, constructed the last frontier fort, Seermoon, known as Gayalmo Khar and built some solid buildings at Chorabhat.

In between a man called Goreethum assumed power. He constructed a palace on the mouth of Nala Farda adjacent to a rock and resided in it to rule. Gradually the village RattaKhumbo developed here, which was later on named Fardah. Likewise, another man, Hind Malik assumed power and laid foundations for the Govt.

Later on, a man named Beigh Manthal, entered village Haldee enroute Nala Kundoos. He was very brave, courageous and intelligent. Within short period of time he controlled Halday and CheyThang by his courage and strategy and began to rule. People titled him "Shunphocho" as he was cruel and hot headed. He gradually controlled areas of Goree Thum and Hind Malik through his scheme of things, but restored their Govt. and did

not interfere in their internal affairs. He was confined to his Patronage only.

During Gorithum time, a Dard women from low race, alongwith her son, entered Raltakhumbo from village Dooru of Rondu area. She was a top singer and was Par excellence in beauty. Goreethumb was infatuated with her and put that woman in his house. She gave birth to a son whose name was Albaldy but he died much earlier. Later on, she was issueless. Therefore, Goreethum appointed his beloved's son, who was with her before marriage as crown prince. Beigh Mental and Hind Malik did not liked this act of Goreethum. They jointly, attacked Goreethum and killed him ruthlessly. Beigh Manthal annexed village Farda with his Govt. An annual festival is celebrated at village Farda in memory of Goreethum's murder which is namedf Tarbala. This custom still continues.

In the meantime, a man, named Paldy came from Shilas. He demanded some area for cultivation from Beigh Manthal. The Raja awarded him the area of Nala Saltoro for cultivation. This man, first of all developed Mohalla Paldy of village Mandak. Gradually, his sons developed the whole area of Nala Saltoro.

No scale stands devised to ascertain the standards of that era. Shah Azam's period of 1420 AD has historical evidences. If one has to rely upon Genealogical order, then @ thirty years per generation, Beigh Manthal's period is about 850 AD.

After two to three years of Goreethum murder, due to breaking of Lake, the country suffered due to heavy floods, by which village RaltaJumno drowned. On this occasion, Beigh Manthal, developed a modern village which at present is famous as Farda. After sometime, Hind Malik passed away with no offspring's. sheenphocho i,e; BeighManthal annexed his area with his Government. In this way Beigh Manthal was the only

Raja of that whole area. He established his summer capital at Haldy and winter capital at Chaythang city Mohalla Saling.

After death of Beigh Manthal, his son Teekam Beigh became Raja. In this way, this dynasty ruled this country for nineteen generations.

UNIT- TWO

MUSLIM RAJGAN KHAPLU

**Shah Azam Raja Haldy & Saling
1420-1450 A.D.**

From Beigh Menthal through 20th generation, Shah Azm was first Muslim Raja of this country. During his era, three sphereds of Dard nationality entered this country from Chilas with their cattle. On their request, Raja awarded downward area of Doogue from river Shyok upto confluence of river Sind, to Barkappa Keer named sphered for grazing and Barkappa Thoor was gifted Hinjoree and Barkappa Chor was awarded area from village Poyen upto Nobra boundary. In this way, people began to settle in these areas.

In his old age, an elderly man Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh came to Askardoo from Kashmir. One of the legends is that before it, Amir-e-Kabeer, Meer Syed Ali Hamdani^{RA} himself visited Askardoo, Shagr and Khaplu and laid foundations of Islam in this country, but it does not stand authenticated. However, Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}, or his caliph Syed Noor Baksh has preached Islam throughout Baltistan and took oath of allegiance in the name of Amie-e-Kabeer Meer Syed Ali Hamadni^{RA}.

He stayed for a brief period at Khaplu and was preaching. The Raja embraced Islam. The idol house of Chekchen was deserted and foundations for Jamia Masjid Chekchen was laid. Later on, these elderly people enroute Nala Saltoro went to Yarkand and with regard to his name his followers used to call

themselves Noor Bakshi in place of Muslims. This title for Muslims as against other faiths of Islam, is prevalent till date. Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh left for his heavenly abode in 869 Hijra.

After Shah Aalam, there have been five Rajas as is recorded in the genealogical order, who became rulers one after another. But the events about them could not be traced out. It is possible that these names may be fictitious. Later on, Salimaldy's names follows through sixth generation from Shah Azm.

Yugbo Salimaldy Raja Thoor to Khar 1450-1470 A.D.

During Salimaldy's period, severe floods were observed in Nala Hoshay and river Shyok from Nobra side, by which population of ChayThang was destroyed and people were homeless. Among them, some left towards Chorabhat and settled village Daav. Some moving towards Ladakh were settled at Chechote. Some people took refuge at Parkota and Doognee. With this destruction, Salimaldy was worried for increase in population. Therefore, he settled Khaplu from river side, which was a forest earlier. The area of Chaythang city which was safe from floods, was divided into two parts. One was named Saling and the other Goore and the flooded area was resettled.

Under such circumstances the Raja had to shift his capital. The hill adjacent to Khaplu, where house of Barkappa Thgoor, on its peak was located was liked by Raja and he purchased it and selected it as summer capital and named it Thoor to Khar on its founder's name. Gradually people began to settle here and extended his Govt. upto Karas and Chorabhat.

Yugbo Aazrvana 1475-1485 A.D.

Afterwards, there have been two Rajas whose whereabouts are not known. Perhaps, their names are also fictitious. Later on, Aazrvana became the Raja. He was a courages man. He conquered the sovereign states in his neighborhood and attacked Pooreeg also. Raja Zanskar had attacked Pooreeg during that period and he confronted Yugbo Aazrna, in which Zanskar people had to face defeat and Raja Zanskar was killed. Yugbo Aazrvana brought his Rani to Khaplu. He reconstructed fort Kharko and constructed a magnificent Jamia Masjid there.

Yugbo Beekam 1485-1494 A.D.

Yugbo Korkor and Yugbo Behram 1494-1550 A.D.

Beekam was his son and his whereabouts are not known also, except that he died leaving his two sons Yugbo Korkor and Yugbo Behram. It is revealed that both of them were jointly administering the Govt. because the name of Behram, was known in foreign countries, though Korkor's name most have been there at that time. Two events of Behram's time are must important which reflect the history of this country.

As has been described about Askardoo, Mir Shams-u-deen Iraqi due to propagation of Shiaism was deported by Sultan Mohammad Shah's Prime Minister, Syed Mohammad Beehaqee in 902 Hijra from Kashmir to Askardoo. He stayed for five to six years at Baltistan and made efforts for propagation of Shia

religion. After working in Askardoo and Shagr he went to Khaplu. His visits of Khaplu are not recorded in history. With the exception, that Behram was the ruler of Khaplu at that time. Since Mir Shaib returned back to Kashmir from Khaplu in 908 Hijra, therefore, it is surmised that he might have visited Khaplu in 906-07 Hijra. In short he was busy in propagation of Shia religion in this country till his return to Kashmir.

Later on, Sultan Syed Khan Shah Yarkand attacked Ladakh in 939 Hijra. He had already deputed his son, Sultan Sikandar Khan under the command of Mirza Haider Gorgan to Ladakh. Afterwards, he himself joined them at Ladakh. After conquest of Ladakh, the Sultan accompanied by one thousand soldiers marched towards Baltistan and Sultan Sikandar Khan and Mirza Haider Khan with rest of army, were deputed to attack Kashmir.

Mirza Haider in his "Tarikh Rashidi" records. "That Sultan Syed Khan, Shah Yarkand, with one thousand soldiers marched towards Batlee (Baltistan) from Maryul (Ladakh) in 939 Hijra and arrived Batli in the beginning of winter. Behram Choo was subdued and was employed. Other sphereds of Baltee disobeyed. Under guidance of Behram Cho, fort Ashgar (Shagr) which is capital of Baltee, was conquered during first attack. Men were killed while women and weapons were possessed by the conquerors. Besides, the mountains were also conquered. However, forts and passes were not disturbed. During onset of spring, Shah returned back to Ladakh."

Though it is not recorded, that which part of Baltistan was ruled by Bahram Cho, who was subdued. A Raja of the same name has been in Askardoo. With this reason, Askardoo Behram's time does not conform to Sultan Syed Khan's period of attack of Baltistan's. This Behram Cho, was certainly the Behram of Khaplu, who stand authenticated by events which followed later on.

During Sultan Syed Khan's invasion of Baltistan a tradition is available in Shagr records but nothing has been observed about it at Shagr, which creates a notion, that perhaps Sultan may not have been to Askardoo. Though it is not evident that after conquering Shagr he might have left Askardoo. However, during Behram's period at Khaplu, it has been revealed that Hashim HoorYarkand, attacked Khaplu via Kandoos and ransacked the whole country of Khaplu and arresting people of Khaplu alongwith Korekore and Behram carried to Yarkand.

With destruction of Khaplu, Raja Askardoo, captured it and deputed his Khorapoon as his deputy at Khaplu. This man was very cruel. People tolerated his oppressive measures for three to four years. At last, people were fed up, and decided to revolt. At last, it was proposed, that Mulla Hassan Bekar Trochay Khosheen albaldy and Lamkhan Megh Singy, be sent to Yarkand to search Korekore and Behram for bringing them back to Kalphu.

The attack which has been mentioned in this legend is related to Sultan Syed Khan, because no other attack by Yarkandis have been made on Khaplu. Though this event, that Sultan arresting Korekore and Behram Rajgan Khaplu carried them to Yarkand alongwith seems incorrect as regards the statement of Mirza Haider. The Raja who might have performed so efficiently and conquered Shagr, the Sultan in no way can imprison him. However, the reality may be that after Sultans return from Ladakh, Raja Askardoo attacked Khaplu on the basis that Raja Khaplu, in association with invaders destroyed Shagr and Askardoo and Korokore and Behram after defeat have absconded and might have arrived at Ladakh to seek assistance from Sultan. Till their arrival at Ladakh, Sultan had returned from Ladakh. Therefore, they had to follow him. Since Sultan

fell ill enroute and died, therefore, they could not achieve their objective. They had to travel upto Yarkand.

After all, these four persons arrived Yarkand and enquired about Behram. Korekore had died before their arrival. Initially, Behram did not like to return Khaplu leaving his brother's grave. But due to motivation by these people he agreed due to interest for government. He left alongwith the ashes of his deceased brother Korkore. He was a wise man. With only four people in his company, he did not dare to come to Khaplu for confronting Raja Askardoo, but leaving his companions at Nobra, he arrived at Ladakh to meet Gayalpo and making arrangements for his assistance, returned to Nobra. In the meantime the envoy had informed the noble's of Khaplu about arrival of Behram in Nobra, so that arrangements can be made for revolt. Some men arrived Nobra from Khaplu. Accompanied by all Behram arrived Seermov secretly. Here noble's of Khaplu sent message to Behram, that he must come alongwith army of neighboring villages of Seermov during night via Hinjouri route and shall hide in Thoorsey mountain. During morning we shall kill Kharpoon alongwith his supporters. Therefore, as per this plan, Behram captured his ancestral fort and gradually controlled whole country and improved administration of the country and was satisfactorily administering the Govt. by his efficient administration and Gayalpo Ladakh's assistance, Raja Askardoo could not dare to take revenge. Later on, he married daughter of Gayalpo Ladakh and lived his life peacefully. Gayalmo gave birth to Yugbo Seekam who succeeded his father after his death.

Yugbo Seekam

1550-1590 A.D.

During Yugbo Seekam's rule, two brothers Syed Shah Nasir Tosee and Syed Ali Tosee entered Khalpu via Saltoro from

Yarkand and stayed at Thans. They were engaged in Preaching Islam. At Thans, they constructed a small mosque on the bank of a Nala which exists till date. Its structure dates back to 1012 Hijra.

The yarkand route from Khaplu leads from Nala Kundoos over Saichen glacier which from its upper side of its western branch falls in river yarkand and from here via Karakoram pass, or via yarkand river valley reaches Yarkand country. Due to expansion of this glacier, downwards, the route discontinued on the northern branch of this glacier, due to expansion of Lake Khamdan, via Shyde valley has stopped and one has to cross river Shyok after long turn to reach this old route. The imprints of human life are still found on Saichen glacier which have been observed by my friend Professor Jo Tu Dia Neelee, who mounted this glacier from river Nobra side and after crossing it arrived at yarkand river valley. On this occasion, I myself have been to these two locations.

The period during which this route from Khaplu to Yarkand was open, the Yarkandi Pirates, during beginning of spring, enter Khaplu via Kandoos to loot and plunder by which people suffer heavily. Due to extension of Saichen glacier this route is out of use and people do not suffer due to pirates now. This event dates back to the period, when Shah Nasir Tosee was present in Khaplu. Therefore, this miracle is attributed to them. In short, it is proved, that this natural event took place during Shah Nasir Tosee's stay at Khaplu. The Glaceirs usually start from peaks of mountains where snowfall is in abundance and by its force the ice advances downwards and sometimes advances upto long distances. When it reaches at certain spots, where it cannot maintain the required temperature, it melts. The common people regard it as retreat of glaciers. As a fact, glaciers only advance and not retreat.

UNIT- THIRD

PARTITION OF KHAPLU GOVERNMENT

Yugboo Seekam had three sons and he during his lifetime, divided his country among them.

Yugboo Ibraheem Raja Soling 1590-1605 A.D.

Yugbo Ibraheem was awarded Soling and villages on right side of river Shyok upto Doognee. Beigh Aman alias Beewancho was handed over downtown area from Doognee to Karas.

Yugboo Tarab Khan Raja Thoor to Khar 1590-1600 A.D.

Yugboo Tarab Khan was awarded upper area of Khaploo and Chorabhat. After death of Yugboo Seekam his sons ruled according to this division in their territories. No other event of their period is available on record.

Yugbo Sher Ghazi 1605-1620 A.D.

Yugbo Ibraheem's son Sher Ghazi succeeded his father after his death. During his rule, at Soling Khar, Ali Sher Khan

Inchen in association with Raja Shagr and Raja Saling Khar attacked Ladakh, as has been described earlier. And after arresting Gayalpo Jimyang Nemged was carried to Askardoo alongwith. Here, in order to maintain association with him, Yugbo Sher Ghazi married his daughter Argeyal Khatoon with Jimyang Nemgeel on the condition that the offsprings of Jimyang Nemgeel from his first wife Gayalmo, be deprived of inheritance and the offspring's from Argeyal Khatoon be awarded the Govt. After this management Jimyang Nemgeel was restored on his Govt. and was sent to Ladakh. Sangay Nemgeel was born from Argeyal Khatoon.

After death of Jinyang Nemgeel Gayalmoo Argeyal Khatoon spent her life as widow in Hondhar palace of Nobra. Here she constructed two splendid Aanaz in the name of her husband, which is still present. She constructed a mosque adjacent to her palace and she lies buried there. When I visited Hondur, I saw a grave in bad shape in a small garden and adjacent to it is a platform, which is said to be the grave of Sangay Nemgeel's mother and this platform is the foundation of that mosque which Gayalmoo constructed during her stay at Hondur. Raja Sanm Nemgeel told me, that a magnificent building was built over the grave and there was a golden roof over the grave and the building of mosque was splendid.

I got the grave repaired and later on I came to know that Munshi Jamsheed has reconstructed the mosque. The Gayalmoo had received some area for subsistence at Nobra. After her death, a part of tax i.e; Phoollee two mounds and Salt twelve mounds was paid to Raja Khaplu for a long period. Later on, during wazir Johnson's period it was changed to thirty two Khal food grains and one Sheep and it was stopped after settlement.

Yugboo Rahim Khan Raja Saling 1620-1650 A.D.

After death of Yugbo Sher Ghazi, his son Rahim Khan succeeded him. He married with daughter of Ladakh Gayalpo, who gave birth to Hatam Khan and Azm Khan. Hatam Khan married Doulat Khatoon sister of Shah Murad. In this way his relations with both Ladakh and Askardoo were strong.

Yugboo Mir Khan Raja Thoor to Khar 1600-1615 A.D.

Yugboo Mir Khan was son of Tarab Khan who succeeded him in Khaplu and Chorabhat. Hussain Khan was his son who succeeded his father after his death. His Rani Haya Khatoon was sister of Shah Murad, the Raja of Askardoo.

Babar and Youqub Raja Thoor to Khar 1640-1685 A.D.

From her, he had two sons, Babar and Yuqub, who after death of their father, succeeded him one by one. Hussain Khan had a brother named Hamza Khan, who was son in law of Raja Kars.

UNIT- FOURTH

UNITED GOVT. OF KHAPLU

Yugboo Hatam Khan Azm
1650-1715 A.D.

After death of Yugbo Rahim Khan, his son Hatam Khan succeeded him. He was very great king of this country and after remarkable achievements, he established united Govt. of Ladakh with his sound policy. At that time, the Rajagan Askardoo were involved in civil wars and had disturbed relations with Shagr. Under such circumstances Hatam Khan conspiring with Gayalpo Ladakh, attacked Thoor from Khar and arresting Babar and Youqub alongwithg their mother, went to Ladakh and imprisoned them at Kharbu. Gayalpo annexed whole area of Chorabhat above Poyeen with Govt. of Ladakh and rest areas from Thoor to Khar i,e; Khaplu, was attached to Hatam Khan's Govt.

During that period Shah Murad got Babar and Youqub released from Gayalpo Ladakh's prison and restored Babar on his ancestral position, again and detaching village Konais from saling annexed it with Khaplu and Phoong Nuk Padee was fixed boundary between these two Govts.

Babar governing for some time successfully, died issueless and in his place his brother Youqub succeeded him. Again a revolution took place in Askardoo on the death of Shah Murad. Hatam Khan with the Satis faction that there is no hope of assistance to Youqub at this juncturedeceived him and captured Khar. Youqub alongwith his family under compulsion

went to request Nawab of Kashmir and on his arrival at Kargil, leaving his family there, went to Srinagar. Enroute, at village Gund Sarsand he fell ill and passed away. His family members under poverty became carpenters to sustain their lives. Their offspring's still live there.

Among his supporters one of them settled at Drass. His sons are still called Chomal uptil now. They are very influential and therefore, one of the leading members of this dynasty had been appointed as Zaildars Drass. Under such circumstances, the Govt. of Khar from Thoor together with Saling was in the hands of Hatam Khan and he was the sole ruler of united Khaplu. He got encouraged. He assembling army from all his areas, attacked Askardoo, under command of his brother Azm Khan. Azam Khan after conquering Gole marched towards Askardoo. Mohammad Rafik Khan was unable to confront and was confined to fort Kharpochay. Azam Khan laid siege of fort and was involved in massacre. He destroyed the neighboring villages of Askardoo. He took beautiful stones as Keepsake of conquest from various areas with him.

The army chiefs of Bota and Achkar, were promised by Hatam Khan to receive seventh part of the gifts which he may receive and this order is still followed. The offspring's of said Bota receive seventh part of gifts received by Raja. Yugbo Hatam Khan, made efforts to increase population. He made arrangements for irrigation in village Kandy, Gorsay, Dogenee and Barah.

Yugbo Dubla Khan

1715-1765 A.D.

After death of Hatam Khan, his son Dubla Khan succeeded him. The events of his era are not known, except that

he settled villages Goduseet and Phirdil. During his period, Raja Kars and Ner, revolted but Dubla Khan defeated them.

During this period, two brothers Arif and Abu Sayeed, entered this country from Kashmir. Syed Arif settled at Thanas, while Syed Abyu Sayeed resided at Karas. The present Jamia Masjid Thanas, was constructed by Syed Arif, while Jamia Masjid Karas was built by Syed Abu Sayeed. These two magnificent buildings still remind us about courage and hard work of their founders. Gradually, they influenced people of Khaplu and Askardoo and authored a book titled "Fiqa Noor Bakshi", which is regarded as mixture of Sunni and Shia Principles. I have not seen this book myself, because the Mullass, do not want to show to people of other faiths.

Syed Arif had only one daughter named Sharf-u-Nisa. She was married to Syed Abdul Sayeed's son, named Mukhtar. In this way, Syed Mukhtar was the sole spiritual guide of Askardoo and Khaplu. Syed Ishaq was his son, whose offspring's are settled at Karas and neighboring areas till date. They don't possess any other property other than name of their elders.

Yugbo Mohammad Ali Khan 1765-1800 A.D.

After death of Dubla Khan, his son Mohammad Ali Khan succeeded him. He was a good administrator. There was increase in population during his period and he settled many villages. For passion of power, he attacked Kharmang, but avoided massacre and after making arbitration returned back. At Shagr, there was dispute between Qulee Khjan and Azm Khan for succession, Qulee Khan sought assistance from Raja Askardoo and defeated Azm Khan. He arrived Khaplu. Mohammad Ali Khan

supported him and controlled Shagr and Qulee Khan fled away to Askardoo

Yugbo Yahya Khan 1800-1815 A.D.

After Mohammad Ali Khan, his son Yahya Khan succeeded him. During his time, Qulee Khan seeking assistance from Askardoo, defeated Azm Khan again and captured Shagr. Yahya Khan attacked Shagr and Azm Khan controlled Shagr again. During that period, Ali Sher Khan II was Raja of Askardoo. During his era, Khaplu was attacked from Ladakh. He confronted Ladakhi army at Ardwork and defeated them and arrested their commander Aayou Kaloon Pankapa.

Mehdi Ali Khan 1815-1820 A.D.

Yahya Khan had three sons, Doulat Ali Khan, Mehmood Shah alias Mehdi Ali Khan and Mohammad Shah. After death of Yahya Khan, there were differences between them for succession. Mehdi Ali Khan was more intelligent than his two brothers. He made secret agreement with Gayalpo Ladakh, by which the left bank of river Shyok towards Khaplu Padee Khanasha and right bank towards Abdan Padee Lonekha and Zainkha was recognized as boundary between Khaplu and Ladakh. The whole area of Chorabhat above it was handed over to Gayalpo Ladakh and in return Gayalpo Ladakh was responsible to support Mehdi Ali Khan through army assistance to control Khaplu. With it, Mehdi Ali Khan influenced people. In Short, Mehdi Ali Khan, assisted by Ladakh army, commanded by Lonepo Hondar controlled Khar and established his Govt.

throughout Khaplu and imprisoned his brother and sent them to Ladakh. Gayalpo Ladakh imprisoned them at Nobra. In the melee, Mohammad Ali Khan son of Doulat Ali Khan absconded to Kharmang via Ganjay and from there, he took refuge under Raja Ahmad Shah of Askardoo.

Raja Ahmad Shah in support of Mohammad Ali Khan, through his nephew Abdal Khan invaded Khaplu. Yugbo Mehdi Ali Khan defeated Abdal Khan and imprisoned army commanders alongwith Abdal Khan. Abdal Khan was imprisoned in Nobra area at Dagartaniyar. Ahmad Shah made every effort to get his prisoners released but Mehdi did not agree. At last, he paid gold equal to Abdal Khan's weight as penalty but the same offer was turned down by him. He thought, in case Abdal Khan is alive, Ahmad Shah has a reason to attack. Abdal Khan was killed in prison and his grave is present there. Ahmad Shah paid him in the same coin as.

During that period, people of Khaplu were divided into two groups. One group was supporting Mehdi Ali Khan who was Raja of Khaplu and second group was in favor of Doulat Ali Khan and Mohammad Shah, who were imprisoned by Mehdi in Gayalpo Ladakh's prison. Mohammad Ali Khan communicated secretly with supporters of his father to revolt against Mehdi Ali Khan. Some people came from Khaplu to Askardoo and made an agreement with Raja Ahmad Shah that Askardoo army shall enter Khaplu on fixed time and shall revolt. Mehdi Ali Khan due to disturbances in his own house, could not arrange for his defence and after his arrest by the enemy was carried to Askardoo. Here Ahmad Shah put him in Gotee Changra prison and made him to suffer. At last, he breathed his last in the same prison.

Now Mohammad Ali Khan requested for his ancestral domain, but Raja Askardoo as his master, dilly-dallied him and lastly imprisoned him at Askardoo. He appointed Bolchgoong as

Kharpoon, made accession of Khaplu with Askardoo and Mohammad Ali Khan was helpless.

Govt of Raja Ahmad Shah, Askardoo Through Youlechoong Karim Kharpoon 1820-1840 A.D.

Yoiulechoong desired to rule by force and people were frustrated by his suppression. He ill treated Mihdi Ali Khan, as against Raja Ahmad Shah and due to breaking his promise with Mohammad Ali Khan, the people in general were angry against him and leaving their grouping's were united to wait for an opportunity.

In the meantime, when wazir Zorawar Singh Kalaria, controlled Pooreeg and Ladakh completely and planned to attack Baltistan, Raja Ahmad Shah invited Youlechoong Karim to Ladakh for consolations. With this opportunity, Haider Khan who was cousin of Doulat Ali Khan and was commander of Raja Ahmad Shah's army, went to every village to take an oath of Subordination from people of Khaplu and ordered then to be ready for war. But Haider Khan did not reveal it to any boys as to with whom he has to wage war. Rustom, brother of Karim, who in his absence was his caretaker, came to know about it and immediately informed Raja Ahmad Shah. He sent Karim back quickly alongwith some army. In Khaplu area, Karim was received very warmly. Haider Khan himself received him at some distance from his residence. With this Karim Khan maintained his relations with Haider Khan. He enquired from Haider Khan, for whom you have taken the oath of subordination and for whom you have asked people to be ready for war. He replied, there is a rumour of Jammu army to attack Askardoo, therefore, I asked people to be ready to confront Jammu army

and for the same reason took oath of subordination. With this Karim was satisfied and he praised Haider Khan for his loyal services.

After few days, Karim received the news that wazir Zorawar Singh's army had left for Khaplu from Ladakh. Karim was also ready to defend his borders. He along with all his Askardoo army and army from Khaplu, totaling eight thousand, commanded by Haider Khan, left for Chorabhat. On arriving village Kostang Karim was informed that some army division of wazir Zorawar Singh commanded by Syed Mudeen Shah via Hanola controlled fort Payeen. Karim consulted Haider Khan and decided that Karim alongwith Askardoo army and some supporters, making trenches on Poyeen mountain, shall confront Dogra army and Haider Khan crossing river Shyok enroute Turtuk reaching Siuksa shall attack Dogra forces from back side. As per this plan Haider alongwith army arrived Turtuk and during night crossing river Shyok arrived Siksa in the morning.

From Ladakh some soldiers were sent by Zorawar Singh to bring some Zamindars from Nobra to support Syed Madeen Shah. They accompanied by Nobra people arrived Siksa. With them Doulat Ali Khan and Mohammad Shah also came to Siksa. Now Haider Khan had consultations with Doulat Ali Khan and Mohammad Shah and all of them jointly obeyed Syed Madeen Shah and joined him. He sent a message to Karim through his servant Bota wa that Haider Khjan and Doulat Ali Khan, both alongwith Zamindars of Khaplu obeyed Dogra army and you are free to do whatever you may like.

Karim was very angry when he came to know about the deception by Haider Khan. He shot dead Botawa by his gun at the same spot and returned to Askardoo alongwith army in a sad state, because he had no alternative but to save his life. The people of Khaplu received him warmly, because they felt relieved from Karim's oppression. In supplies they helped Dogra

force who camped for three days at Khaplu. Thereafter, they left for Askardoo.

In the meantime, Karim reaching Kars called reinforcements from Askardoo and was ready at Katrs to confront Dogra forces. Here Karim fought valiantly against Dogra army. As per reports, war continued for three or seven days and he blocked route for Dogra army. But when he came to know that wazir Zorawar Singh had conquered Kartaksha and had arrived at Parkota alongwith his army, he lost his senses and leaving battle field, left towards Askardoo alongwith his army. Syed Madeen Shah camped for three days at Kars. Then receiving message about arrival of wazir Zorawar Singh, crossed river Sind and joined wazir's forces.

Doulat Ali Khan **1840-1860 A.D.**

During Karas war Raja Ahmad Shah released Mohammad Ali Khan from prison and sent him to Kars to incite Doulat Ali Khan and Haider Khan to favor Raja Askardoo. But reaching Kars he associated with them. At Gole, Syed Madeen Shah produced Doulat Ali Khan, Mohammad Ali Khan, Mohammad Shah and Haider Khan before wazir and appreciated their services. Wazir sent back Doulat Ali Khan, Mohammad Ali Khan and Mohammad Shah and restored their rule at Khaplu in return of their services and faithfulness. Only Haider Khan with some armed soldiers accompanied wazir to Askardoo.

The wazir after conquest of Askardoo stayed at Askardoo during winter season. During onset of spring he returned back to Ladaskh for conquest of Lhasa. Arriving Khaplu, he camped there for one week. From here, accompanied by Doulat Ali Khan, Mohammad Shah, Mohammad Ali Khan and Haider

Khan, left for Ladakh. But he sent back Doulat Ali Khan from Ladakh. The three men alongwith soldiers of Khaplu, were deployed at Ladakh for going to Lhasa.

Mohammad Shah suffered from small Pox at Ladakh and passed away. Haider Khan died suddenly during bathing in Saboo spring. Some people about him say, that it was the handiwork of Doulat Ali Khan. Mohammad Ali Khan leading Khaplu army accompanied wazir Zorwar Singh upto Pooreeg. There he was arrested after death of said wazir.

At Lorang, the army of wazir Zorawar Singh suffered heavily. After these damages, Lhasa army captured Ladakh and there was revolt in Baltistan. Haider Khan, Raja Shagr established his rule throughout country. All Rajgan began to declare their independence.

To silence the revolt in Baltistan an expedition from Jammu under command of wazir Lakhpatt Kistawaria via Sooru was deputed to Kargil. When wazir Lakhpatt arrived Askardoo he conquered fort Kharpochay. Haider Khan accompanied by eight peasants absconded from Askardoo, went to Yarkand via Nala Thalay and Salto. When Doulat Ali Khan received the news, he sent his men and arrested them and called at Khaplu and accompanied by them arrived at Askardoo and presented them before wazir Lakhpatt. Wazir Lakhpatt became very happy by the services of Doulat Ali Khan and by this act, his whole Jagir was restored.

Mohammad Ali Khan

1860-1880 A.D.

Mohammad Ali Khan released from Lhasa army prison, attended, Dewan Hari Chand, Chief commander of Ladakh expedition. Dewan was accompanied by him to Jammu, where

he stayed as a state guest for some time. He ceremonised a marriage there. Later on, he returned to his own country and after death of Doulat Ali Khan, succeeded him.

Hatam Khan II

1880-1900 A. D.

Hatam Khan II was Mohammad Ali Khan's son, whose son Nasir Ali Khan, is the present Raja Khaplu, who is regarded as broad minded and intelligent among Rajgan Baltistan. Rajgan Kars is one of the branches of this dynasty. Since they don't have any specific achievement, therefore, I didn't find any need to record their events and only their Genealogical order is recorded. Raja Mohammad Ali Khan is the present Raja.

Chapter -5th

Baltistan

Climate, Crop Production, Minerals, Industry and Trade

Though like Ladakh, Baltistan is among those countries, which does not receive any rainfall and where there is so much of aridity in air, that there is no possibility of vegetation without irrigation. But this part of country has low altitude as compared to Ladakh and also receives snowfall and often scanty rainfall, therefore, due to these factors, there is no severe cold and aridity in air like Ladakh. However, the internal areas of Nalas, are very cold like Ladakh.

In two river valleys i.e; Sind and Shyok, soil produces two seasonal crops. During Rabi, Wheat, Grim, Beans, Masoor, Baqla and Mustard and during Kharif, Chena, Kangee and Trumba are produced. The soil is usually fertile, but needs fertilizers, for which special arrangements are made in these countries. Paddy and Maize is not cultivated in Baltistan. Various experiments were made for their cultivation and have been successful upto a certain limit, but these crops donot gained currency.

Among vegetables, whatever is sown, has better production, Karm Sag and other species of Sag and Turnip are common. Turnip is their main vegetable. Chillies, Raddish, Carrots and Onions are also produced. I cultivated Cabbage, Pototo and other vegetables successfully. Watermelon and Muskmelon are produced in abundance. Its Seeds were brought

from Khatan. Rashfa as fodder for animals is cultivated on large scale

Fruits are produced in abundance at Baltistan as climate is ideal. The Toot beydana and Shahtoot is the first fruit to ripe which is consumed largely. Afterwards Apricots are ready which has many varieties. It is said that special quality apricot graft has been brought from Turkistan. The Apricots of this country are of superior quality and are produced in abundance. Peaches are also produced. In lower Sind valley Grapes and Zarshakh are in abundance. Grapes of different varieties and superior qualities are produced. Apples and pears equivalent to Kashmiri grades are produced while pears of Baltistan are better than Kashmiri Pears. Walnuts are produced in great numbers. Mehta Mangal also introduced Almonds here, which are of good quality, but are not cultivated mostly. In the lower areas, Pomegranates are also produced. Grapes and Zarshakh are Planted around Mulberry trees.

Though in some Nalas of Baltistan, especially Nala Beshov and Rondow, are forests of Chir but for building Purposes the poplar wood is commonly used and forest wood is used for only special buildings. Boats ply at two to four places on river Sind and Shyok. These Boats are made up of forest timber. The willow wood is also used in building purposes. Willow and poplar trees are in abundance here and their growth is very good. Besides, Chinar and Willow Majnoon, as Shady and attractive trees are found here. In Shagr valley especially Askardoo, Baid Mushk is also produced. It is possible, that it can be produced at other locations. The Padm trees are found on some Nalas and in some Nalas, the Birch leaf trees are also produced.

In mineral wealth, Gold extraction is topping the list. This work is usually performed mostly on Nala Basha, Nala Braldo, Nala Parkota, Nala Saltoro, river Sind, river Shagr and river

Shyok. The valley of Shagr, Basha and Braldo are most fertile locations and I think on the whole a substantial quality of gold is exported from this country every year.

In Shagr habitation, inside Nala, is a mine of ZahrMehra. From this stone, utensils, i.e; tea pots, cups, tumblers and flowers etc. of different types are prepared and were exported to Kashmir and India. This stone is also found in Nala Chotarun. Crystal glass of every measurement is available in every Nala, but high quality crystal glass in abundance is found in Brasha Braldo, Shagr Thung and Randoo. Opposite to Askardoo, the mountain over village Kawardoo is gifted with marble mine. The Rajas of Askardoo, used this marble in the buildings of Kharpochay and Nang Sokh, the remains of which are present in Govt. buildings. The Black stone is also found in this Chain of mountains at villages Gulabpora & Chotroon. I was informed by Prof. Dateey Neelee, that from Kuwardu to Basha, this whole mountain is full of marble.

Dasonaid situated in Shagr valley is gifted with Emerald mine. But it is said, that the stone is not of high quality. Antimony mine is found in Nala Neyasaloo situated in valley of Basha. Salajeet is exported from Randoo area. Copper Sulphate is obtained from Chorabhat. The iron ore mine is found in village Nend and Nala Chotern situated in Shagr valley and Nala Braldo. Lead mine is located in Phodwa in (Khaplu) and in Shagr valley. Sang Yashab is found in Nala KateSho and Nala Dooru in Randoo and village Gumroo. A soft type of Sang Khara, is found in Chorabhat area, Braldo, Yasha and Yashoo, from which utensils are made which are also used in Kargil and Ladakh. Antimony mine is found in Randoo area. Caustic Soda, mine is available in Nala Gawadee, Kawardu, Nala Chorka and Askardoo.

The hot water springs are found in Chotroom, Baisal in Nala Basha and Nala Braldo. Expect Chotroon the rest of two

springs are very hot. Water gushes out in form of a fountain from Braldo spring. Many patients suffering from different diseases are bathing in these springs. For this reason, the Chotroon spring waters are used mostly.

Trade and Industry is at low level in Baltistan. However, it is better than Ladakh and Kargil from one side and Gilgit from other side. Shagr and other places in Baltistan make superior quality woolen and Pashmina blankets and Pattoo and ordinary type Chadras are Prepared which do not match to Kashmiri Shawls. Besides there is SangZahr Muhr, utensil industry. The stone utensils which are prepared in some areas fulfill local needs.

The seeds of Apricots of Baltistan are the main item of trade with other countries, which is being exported in thousands of maunds to India. Next comes the export of dry Apricots, which is being sent to India and Lhasa. The butter is exported to Ladakh. Woolen blankets and Pashmina Sheets are usually sent to Ladakh and Lhasa, as well as to Kashmir. They are mostly used locally. Being soft they are very valuable. The Household utensils of stone find their market in Ladakh. However, the utensils of Sangesabz are exported to India and Kashmir, where they are highly prized.

Wool and Pashmina comes from Ladakh to Baltistan. From India, clothes Tea, Sugar and some other ordinary things are imported to Baltistan.

Some Butter and Sheep are exported to Gilgit from Baltistan. The export trade of Baltistan produce, is main source of income. But due to increase in population the cultivable land is fragmented and the production is not sufficient for subsistence, therefore, Poor people, during spring season leave for Kashmir or mountain areas of India as Labor or seek employment and by this income, sustain their lives. In proper Baltistan there is no scope for it. The people of Baltistan are

generally Poor as compared to Ladakh and Kargil, but are civilized. The Persian education is already in Vogue in this country. Now, young people with education in English language are seeking employment in public service departments.

Chapter- 6th

Resources of Govt. Income

This part is very important, as it reveals the real administration of Govt. structure. Therefore, it is summarized in context of ancient & modern periods.

During Rajgan Baltistan there was no custom of revenue tax in cash. For Raja's domestic expenditure, it was fixed in kind @ per Youle. Twelve Khal seed grains were equal to one Youle. One Khal was equal to twenty five English Seers and so much seeds in Askardo were cultivated in two Khanals of land at Askardo. With this measurement, one Youle is equal to 24 Khals or three acres of land area.

Youle is classified in three stages

1. **Trak Chous Youle.** The land area under possession of wazirs and other noble's and darbariz and Employees, who were serving the state and were domestic servants of Raja. Among them the people who were really serving were exempted from revenue tax, except on the occasion of marriages and death, were paying four rupees as present to Raja. The other people of this category who were not holding any post or position, were paying tax @ one khal and five Baray food grains per Youle, one Baray Butter and one Sheep.
2. **Gaund:-** It was that land area, which Rajas had allotted to themselves and had later on handed over to people for cultivation. They were realizing @ twelve Khal food grains per Youle. The Rajas were holding the property rights of these areas and the possessors were only cultivators.
3. **Zamindari Area:-** Those areas, which people cultivated by their hardwork and expenditure. The revenue tax of these areas varied from area to area, but commonly, the fixed rates per Youle were.

Wheat, one Khal; five Baray
Grim & Jaw: one Khal five Baray
Butter, two Baray.
Cocks:- four No's.
Goat/Sheep: one

Those areas where Gold is extracted, or the Zamindars who work in other Gold extracting areas were exempted from land revenue. Gold @ half to one tola was realized from them per Aasamee. The Gold Extraction Aasameez were selected, though they were involved in extraction or not, but were bound to pay taxes. One tola of Gold was equal to Eight mashaz, which was costing not more than twelve rupees per tola.

In the interior parts of Nalas of villages where cattle were more and agriculture less, revenue tax was realized as, for each Youle.

Woolen Pattoo-one Than
Butter:- Seven Baray
Goat/Sheep: one

Those villages adjacent to mountains where hunting of Kail is common, an additional tax in addition to ordinary land revenue per village @ six hides of Kail is realized as tax. In case, hides are not available, then they have to give three Khal Butter per village. There is no fixed number for wood and grass. During summer when cattle are being sent to mountain pastures, they were supposed to provide one day's milk to Raja through his confidant as tax for grazing grounds and extracting Butter from that was sent to Raja. when crown prince was born to Raja food grains @ ten Braay, Butter one Baray and wood, for one time were realized as present from Zamindars. For Nang Jang, i.e; the seep cultivated area, under Rajas care and control, was cultivated by Zamindars who were not paid any wages.

After conquest of Baltistan, the realization of revenue tax was in the hands of Rajas. For Bhagwan Singh Thanedar and army deployed at Askardoo, it was proposed that to realize food grains one Khal Youle Butter, one Baray, wood, one time and salt as per need from Zamindars. The Rajgan for their land i.e; Gaund, shall pay tax @ six Khal/ Youle, for supplies to employees and army.

In addition, to supplies the revenue tax @=Rs three/ Youle was fixed for ordinary Zamindars realized through Rajgans was deposited in Govt. treasures. This arrangement continued till Kedaroo Thanedar. Kedaroo Thanedar, managed the realization of revenue tax by himself while Rajgans were handling the personal tax system only. Besides, Kaydaro revised number of Youle and by addition of one rupee the rate per Youle was fixed as Rupees four, for which one rupee food grains @ three Khal ten Baray per rupee was fixed and the previous revenue in kind was restored. Instead of one Baray Butter, one and half seer Ghee was fixed and one Baray salt and one Baray Dal per Youle was added and instead of one Bar of woods, it was fixed as one maund. The far off villages which were unable to bring wood were asked for grass.

Keydaro Thanedar, introduced the tradition of receiving presents & gifts and awarding of robes on Navroz festival. Which is as: Rajgan Kalan; Nazrana one hundred rupees. Robes. One pair Doshawla Pashmins. Rajgan Khrud.: Nazrana fifty rupees. Robes: One piece Doshawla Pashmins- Wazirs. Nazrana. Ten rupees- Robes: Half Than Malmal- Numberdars. Nazrana. Three rupees.-Robes: four to five yards cloth (White)

Later on, Mehta Mangal planted countless trees and people made great progress. After settlement of land, revenue tax was fixed for new areas, with no revision in revenue tax, even in 1955 Bikrmi, the legal settlement was introduced and Mr. Clark after observations proposed revenue tax, which was amended during Mr. Talbort's era.

Chapter – 7th

Baltistan Rulers

From the beginning of Dogra rule, the area of Pooreeg has been included with Balistan for sake of administration. During state council period, when Gilgit and Ladakh were associated in one frontier wazrat, a seprate Thesil was established at Kargil. About three years later, the Gilgit and Ladakh wazrat's were partitioned, however, the two tehsils of Baltistan restored.

Kaydaroh Thanedar 1908-1920 Bikrmi

During initial period of Dogra rule, the whole area of Balistan was under Kardar who was residing at Askardoo. A Thanedar under his subordination was posted at Kargil. The first ruler of Balistan was Bhagwan Singh, who was followed by Gosawoon, Karam Singh and Jawahir Singh etc. but nothing is known about their remarkable achievements. The Rajgans were holding over all control. Later on, from 1908-1920 Bikrmi, Kaydaroh was Thanedar, who interfered the functions of Rajgans. He realized revenue tax by himself and revised it. Kaydaroh was appreciated very much for his competence. He laid foundation for modern system of Governance and decreasing Rajgan's influence, established Public government and there was increase in Govt. income. The Rajgan complained against him. But he remained firm and there was no change in his system of working.

Wazir Lhaba Joo Kardar

Later on, came wazir Lhaba Joo Jistawaria and constructed a splendid palace for him. On one branch a splendid palace for him on branch of Nala satpar, which crosses through Askardoo habitation. Now the same has been divided into few parts which are used as Hospital, Post office and Telegraph office. In one of its, rooms was also residing Thesildar Askardoo.

Mehta Mangal Kardar 1932-42 Bikrmi

In 1932 Bikrmi, the famous and favorite ruler, Mehta Mangal Kistawaria was appointed as Kardar of Balistan. He performed such remarkable deeds i.e; increase in Govt. income, development of agriculture, prosperity of people and employees of Govt. which will be remembered for long in this country. He changed his country into an orchard by planting trees from Sooru to Drass and Haramosh and river valley of Sooru, Drass, Sind, Shagr, Shyok and from Shagr habitation upto Braldo. It is said that about five Lakh plants of willow and poplars and more than half Lakh fruit trees were planted and at different locations he laid more than one hundred gardens. Thereafter, none of the rulers achieved so much fame in this behalf, because, whosever did some minor activity in this behalf was attributed to Mehta Mangal.

At Askardoo he preserved about twenty vast land areas which are locally called Rakhs, for providing grass and firewood to Govt. employees and outside Askardoo, where Govt. employees were posted, or during inspections where they had to

stay for some time, Rakhs were preserved, so that people are not forced to provide these provisions to Govt. employees.

In constructions, he took so much interest, that there was no scope for improvement. For his residence and court, he built a magnificent building named Ranbirghadh at Askardoo, in which all residential arrangements for Govt. employees posted there were made. This building with some minor changes is being used for the same purpose till date. With it he laid a very big garden, in which different types of fruit trees brought from Balistan and Kashmir were planted. It was bedecked with flower beds as well.

He repaired Kotwali building and constructed prisons for culprits. For Kotwali employees, he constructed residential complexes. Since fort Askardoo was situated on a mountain peak where army was living in open, therefore, a fort like cantonment on the bank of Nala Satpar for residential purposes of soldiers, was built and arrangements for army welfare were improved. Inside this building a prison house was constructed which is used for the same purpose till date. For big family Govt. employees, residential houses were constructed as per their needs. In public gardens, summer houses with a dozen doorway pavilion were made for entertainment. Shop were constructed in Askardoo market. Silk industry units were established throughout area. Passenger sheds (waiting Rooms) for travelers and Rest Houses for noble's were constructed enroute from Askardoo to Sooru on one side, Askardoo to Astak on second side and Askardoo to Khaplu on third side at every Padov. At Shagr and Astak, cantonments for soldiers were built and for others Govt. servants residential houses were constructed. The godowns for food grains, were built at Askardoo, Shagr and Astak on a big scale and on places where need arised. A copper mine was discovered in Rondou area. Therefore, a copper industry was set up at village Mehandi. Mica and Antimony mines were discovered.

But these works were not beneficial and their extraction was stopped. Many colonies were developed at different locations and new villages were settled which are inhabited till date.

His relations and treatment with his people was so humanly, sincere and brotherly, that I received some people who acknowledge him as a saintly person. In short, such a competent state officer has never been to Baltistan after him and in Kistawar, I was extremely happy to learn that his family is still held in high esteem there.

Mehta Mangal's decade long rule was followed by Bhai Ganga Singh, Roy Bhadur Pandit Radha Krishen Koul, Lala Dhanpat Roy, Syed Ghulam Jeelani Shah one after other as Kardar Baltistan, but no remarkable event of them has been discovered by me. Later on, Kardaree was abolished and a Tehsil was established at Askardoo and both these Tehsils were under Frontier wazraat. After wards, they were under wazarat Ladakh. Thereafter, wazrat Ladakh's winter and summer capital was fixed at Askardoo and Leh respectively. In this period, there has been remarkable development in Baltistan.

Chapter – 8th

Propagation of Islam, in Balistan, Pooreeg, Gilgit and Ladakh

The propagation of Islam in this country is credited to Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer Syed Ali Hamdani ^{RA}, but nothing is recorded about him. As per History of Kashmir, that Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer ^{RA} visited Kashmir thrice. First, during Sultan Shab-u-deen's period from 1360-1375 AD. On the directions of Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer ^{RA}, Syed Hassan bin Syed Taj-u-deen Behaqee has been to Kashmir to know about the route, customs and traditions of Kashmir. On his arrival, when he met Sultan, who was pleased by his intelligence and employed him in his army. Later on, during Sultan Shahab-u-deen's last invasion of Punjab, Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer ^{RA} visited Kashmir. Sultan's brother, who in those days was in Kashmir, Qutub-u-deen served him. Staying here for four months, he left for India. In 775 Hijra 1373 AD, arrived Ferozpor where Sultan Shahab-u-deen attended him and through his good offices, Feroz, Shah Tagaluq and Sultan Shahab-u-deen became friends.

Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer ^{RA}, visited Kashmir for second time in 781 Hijra, 1379 AD, during Sultan Qutub-u-deen's era. At that time, he was accompanied by seven hundred Sadats. Sultan Qutub-u-deen who during his brother's era was his host, received him warmly. He stayed at Mohalla Alla-u-deen Pora, on the bank of river where after constructing a Sufah (Platform) became engrossed in Prayers. His associates were living peaceful life under patronage of Hazrat-Amir and Sultan. Sultan Qutub-u-deen was associated with Hazrat Amir and was serving him sincerely. Hazrat Amir was very Kind to Sultan for his sincerity

therefore he gifted his cap as benediction to Sultan, which Sultan was always keeping in his crown. Later on, his offspring's were also keeping the cap in their crown till at last in 1517 AD, When Sultan Fateh Shah took this holy cap in his grave, about which Molvi Mohammad, who during that time was the leading Sheikh, prophesied, "that royal crown from Kashmir Kings has gone and their Govt. Sacked". Same thing happned and from that day, the Govt. began to decline. On this occasion, Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}, stayed for six months in Kashmir.

Afterwards, Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}, visited Kashmir in 785 Hijra (1383 AD) for third time, but soon, he left for pilgrimage to Harmain Sharefain . He went to Pakhlee, where he left for his heavenly abode. The corpse was carried to Hashletan for burial.

During these two travels, his visit to Balistan, or entering or leaving from Balistan route is not recorded. But in Balistan, strange anecdote about Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}, are famous. My friend Molvi Syed Abass Resident of Chhorka, who gave me his recorded events about Islam, writes, "That Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}, holding a mace in his hand, entered Kashmir and was engaged in propagating Islam. Afterwards he arrived Askardoo. There by his sermons, people were influenced very much and they began to embrace Islam, even Hazrat Amir constructed a mosque at Kharee-doong. It is the first mosque of that country and upto Raja Ali Shah's period, Friday prayers were offered regularly. Then arrangements were made at village Kafchoon.

After making these arrangements Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA} left for Shagr and propagated Islam here. Islam spread from Kohthang upto end of Nala Braladoo on one side and from Neelee to Casha on the other side. Later on, staying at Amborak, constructed Amborak Mosque the first mosque of that area and it is said, that the mace of Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer, is still present in the dome. Afterwards, mosque at Chhee Bronjee was

constructed. The inner walls of the mosque contain Sura Muzamil written by Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA} himself. Starting from eastern gate with Bismillah the Sura comes to an end after recordings on the four sides. This writing still exists.

The period of time, when Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}, was confined to mosques, he authored books namely Zakherat-ul-Malook and al-Moudat. These books are still available with Mulla's of Shagr. Ahl tasawaf still follow it. In short, Hazrat upto five years spent his time in Shagr and Tibet area upto Chorabhat. Later on, he returned to Srinagar. These events are not authenticated by History. It is evident that religious duties performed by Hazrat-Amir-e-Kabeer's^{RA} students and caliphs, in Balistan, on his name, later on were ascribed to him by his followers.

The present dress of Kashmir's is also ascribed to Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}. It is related that before him, Kashmiri's used Indian dress i.e; Short Kurtas an Dhotee and tight trousers. On the advice of Hazrat Amire-e-Kabeer^{RA}, Sultan Qutub-u-deen changed this dress, which was of Turkish origin and Hazrat Amir instead of Choga proposed long Kurta. On seeing Sultan donning this dress the whole population followed him. With some minor changes, the Hindus and Muslims of Kashmir use the same dress.

Later on, during Sultan Sikandar's era Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeers^{RA} young son, Syed Meer Mohammad Hamdani at the age of twenty two years, alongwith three hundred companions entered Kashmir in 796 Hijra (1394 AD) and living in this country for twenty two years, left for his heavenly abode. His tomb is at Srinagar. Sultan Sikandar took oath of allegiance at his hands. The place where Sultan Qutub-u-deen had constructed Sufah for Hazrat-Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}, on the same place Khankah-i-Moulla was built in honor of Hazrat. Inside of Khankah the Sufah is still existing on which Hazrat Amie-e-Kabeer^{RA} used to

stay. The Choga and mace of Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA} is also there.

Despite of long stay in Kashmir, the visit of Syed Meer Mohammad Hamdani^{RA} does not stand confirmed from History of Kashmir. At last, one has to depend on Hazrat Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh's records.

Later on, Hazrat Mohammad Noor Baksh, who was favorite student of Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}, entered Balistan as caliph of Hazrat Amir. He is credited to be the first preacher of Islam in this country. The History of Kashmir, relates his name but there is no mention of month and year. One of the books, which I received from a Mullah records his death as 869 Hijra (1464 AD). On its basis, it is revealed that Hazrat might have visited this country in (840-50 Hijra) (1435-1445 AD). As tradition, the rulers of that period were.

Gota Cho Sangay in Askardoo Ghazi Thamb in Shagr and Shah Azam inKhaplu

Hazrat Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh preached Islam throughout country and people took oath of allegiance at his hands in the name of Hazrat Amir-e-Kabeer^{RA}. The people of the country embraced Islam in great numbers and within short period of time, the entire population were Muslims. Ghazi Thum embraced Islam and named himself Ghazi Meer. The Mosques of Ambodrak and Broriji which are ascribed to Hazrat Amir were perhaps constructed by Syed Noor Baksh under opatronage of Ghazi Meer.

There is no mention of Askardoo, in traditions of country, but the works ascribed to Hazrat Amir^{RA} should be the works of Syed Noor Baksh. There is no mention of Gota Cho Sangay as to how far was he influenced by Islam. In short, he came to Shagr

from Askardoo and from Shagr went to Khaplu. At Khaplu, he stayed for a brief period and was preaching Islam. The Raja embraced Islam and he laid the foundation of Jamia Masjid Chekchen. Then later on, via Nala Sattoro, he went to Yarkand and during this period, the entire population of Balistan had embraced Islam.

No research has been made about Pooreeg in this behalf, but presence of countless followers of Hazrat Syed Noor Baksh in this area, Signals about Syed Shaib's endeavors in this behalf. The presence of Jamia Masjid at two places, signifies that Syed Shaib might have left for Askardoo through the same route and have first of all preached in this country or have arrived here from Khaplu via Hanola. However, in Pooreeg, the founder of Noor Baksh religion, has been Hazrat Syed Mohammad. Noor Baksh, whose name is remembered with great respect till date in this area.

Molvi Syed Abass, dedicated his book *Fiqah Ahwat*, to Syed Noor Baksh. He authored the book in the name of his son, Shah Qasim Faiz Baksh, which is in currency among his followers till date. But the later events revealed that this book was documented by Mir Sham-u-deen Iraqi, who representing himself as the caliph of Hazrat Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh Preached his religion and in fact, laid foundation of Shia religion

Later on, during last days of Sultan Hassan Shah's era 892 Hijra, (1487 AD) Mir Shams-u-deen Iraqi entered Kashmir, but due to Sultan's illness and later on his death, could not attend his darbar. However, he stayed in Kashmir. During Sultan Mohammad Shah and Fateh Shah's differences, he visited Baba Ismail and became his disciple. But in reality, he was follower of Shia religion and during his stay, he had influenced Baba Ali Najar as follower of his religion. When Mohammad Shah again became the ruler and Syed Mohammad Beehaqi was his Prime Minister, Syed Shams-u-deen Iraqi left for Kharsan after eight

years in 900 Hijra (1495 AD) but was exiled from there and again came to Kashmir,. Arriving here, he by the assistance of Baba Ali Najar began to propagate for Shia religion openly. Malik Mousa, Raina, Kajhi Chak and Ghazi Chak became his disciples and sincere followers and provided every help and support in spreading Shiaism. When Syed Mohammad Beehaqi came to know about it, he became ferocious, banned Shams-u-deen Iraqi from Kashmir and deputed him to Askardoo.

Exiled from Kashmir, Mir Shaib arrived Askardoo. Since Hazrat Syed Mohammad Noor Bakshi's name was very favorite here and people were ready to sacrifice for his name, Mir Shaib represented himself as the caliph of Syed Shaib and began to preach Imamia religion and tried his level best to propagate. At that time, the rulers were.

Makpoon Pokha in Askardoo
Gazree in Shagr
Rai Behram in Khaplu
Habib Choo in Pooreeg

Mir Shams-u-deen Iraqi was respected everywhere on the name of Syed Noor Baksh and with this policy, he was successful to spread his religion. He stayed in this country for five to six years. Thereafter, the news about martyrdom of Syed Mohammad Behaqi in Kashmir was received here and Mir Shaib returned back to Kashmir in 908 Hijra (1502 AD). It is possible, that Gota Cho Sangoy or Behram might have taken an oath of allegiance at the hands of Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh, but about Bokha's son, Sher Shah it is said that he has embraced Mir Sham's-u-deen Iraqis religion, perhaps, same situation might have occurred in Shagr and Khaploo, but in Pooreeg the religion of Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh was in operation.

As per tradition, during Yugboo Sekam or Yugboo Pameer i.e; Ibraheem's era, two brothers Syed Nasir Tosee and Syed Ali Tosee entered Thanas via Nala Saltora. They were followers of Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh and preached the same religion. Sat than on the bank of a Nala, they constructed a small but a magnificent mosque. Till their stay here, they worshipped these. This mosque is in a dilapidated state at present. From Thanas, these two saints preaching Islam arrived Shagr, where they performed the same activities. For some time they resided at Chotroon and Dasonaid. Then Syed Nasir left somewhere and he could not be traced down. The Shagr people believe, that he disappeared in the mountain of vasonaind. Later on, his Younger brother Syed Ali was preaching Noor Bakshi religion, in Askardoo and lastly left for his heavenly abode at Kavardu. His graveyard still exist which is a pilgrimage site.

This event dates back to intervening period between Abdullah Khan and Hassan Khan or initial period of Raja Imam Qulee Khan when both these saints arrived Shagr and in that area, they preached about Syed Noor Bakshi's faith of Islam and built Jamia Mosques. It could not be ascertained as who was the Raja of Askardoo during arrival of Syed Azam Khan's period of Govt. Two brothers Syed Yahya and Syed Mukhtar, perhaps came from Turkistan to Shagr. Both these brothers preached Islam in Shagr area.. They stayed at Shagr for some time and later on shifted to Chorka. Then Raja conspired with younger brother, Syed Yahya to harm Syed Mukhtar who left to Kartas. There he constructed a Jamia Masjid and preached Syed Noor Bakshi's religion. Then in Shyuk valley upto Chorabhat, he constructed Mosque in almost every village and Jamia Masjids and deployed one Mullah, in each Mosque among his students for preaching and appointed his caretakers in Chorka situated in Shagr valley. His offspring's are still present in that area.

In short the preachings of Islam by Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh, were supported by those saints and scholars, whose graveyard are present everywhere. If events of all those people are to be recorded, there is need of one seprate book for same. In Sooru Kartasy the beginning of Islam was initiated by Argail Bomaldy who embraced Islam in about 725 Hijra, (1373 AD) at Kashmir. He was accompanied by few Muslims scholars from Kashmir settled at Malba and preached Islam.

Afterwards, Konga Nemgail Raja Sooru and Kartasy married his son Thee Nemgayal with a princess from Askardoo, who on her arrival at Kartasy became famous as Thee La Khatoon. She was accompanied by Akhoon Mohammad Sharief from Askardoo, who appointed scholars for preaching throughout villages and was himself busy in the same work.

A scholar Syed MirHashim was called from Kashmir to educate Thee Nemgayal's son Thee Mohammad Sultan. He was accompanied by many scholars and Mulla's from Kashmir, who settled in many villages and were involved in Preaching Islam .It was due to their collective efforts, that Islam spread throughout country and like Balistan, there was no one left to follow previous religion. The tombs of these saints are present throughout and offspring's of some of them are still alive in some villages. Later on, in 840 -50 Hijra (1435 AD) Syed Mohammad Noor Baksh laid foundation of Islam in soot, Chigthan and Pushkum, which was later on cemented by his disciples and it still exists and the inhabitants of country are still following his faith. In Shagr Shangoo and Drass perhaps Islam spread from Astore and Gilgit. Usually, they are following Hanfia faith.

The area above Bodh Kharboo is not influenced by Islam, because no preacher has been to that side. In Ladakh, whatever influence has been there is confined to Kashmiri and Yarkandi merchants. These people migrated from Kashmir and Balistan

and settled at Ladakh and spread their religion slowly and steadily by their noble way of life. Therefore, Islam is confined to Ladakh city and two to three neighboring villages and also in two to four villages of Nobra.

At Zanskar, Razak Joo, a Kashmir Businessman was responsible for spread of Islam, who was sent by Gayalpo Sangay Nemgeel in 1610-45 AD, for help and support his son, Dey Chok Nemgeel and at last he settled at Zanskar and gradually influenced people. Uptil now, there are thirty to fourty houses of Muslims in two villages of Zanskar and are on the road to progress.

About Gilgit, as a tradition the foundations of Islam were Isaid from the period of Aazr and Shamsheer. Though Shamsheer did not took any active part in propagation of Islam, after conquest of Gilgit, but during his period of rule, six saints, Syed Shah Beryawali, Syed Sultan Ali, Syed Shah Wali, Syed Shah Afzal, Syed Shah Akbar and Syed Mir Ibraheem visited this country. They preached Islam and converted entire country from Buddhism to Islam. The graveyards of these saints still lie in different areas of Gilgit and are pilgrimage sites. Many Predictions and Karamat are associated with them. Later on, during Tarah Khan's period, Taj Moughal from Badakshan attacked Gilgit. He introduced a modern religion in Gilgit, which was named as Mughlee, on the name of its founder, which later on due to maxium usage changed into Moulaie. Tarah Khan embraced this religion and made efforts in its propagation. In poniyal, Yaseen ,Chitral and Hunza, this religion gained currency through Taj Moughal, where it is practiced till date. But it did not succeed in proper Gilgit and during my posting at Gilgit, except one family (Raja Kamal Khan Nomal) there was no one to follow this religion throughout the area.

I am not aware about the Principles of this religion, because, any one, from Whom I enquired, avoided me. Even

Grand Peer Shaib of Chitral said that first of all accept our religion then you will be informed about the rules. The Molvees of Gilgit think, that this religion attaches more importance to Hazrat Ali ^{RA}. The saints order is regarded as revelation. His followers, Carry Letter from him for only into heaven. Their Hajj Pilgrimage is confined to circumambulation of Bombay saint. They do not avoid wine. But it has recently been prohibited from Bombay. The present Patron of this faith is Bombay's High Highness Sir Agha Khan, whose deputies are deployed in this area. His organization is well Knit.

Thereafter, Ali Sher Khan Inchen, Raja Askardoo 1595-1633 AD and his grandsons, Sher Shah Ali Shah and Shah Murad, during 1660-1710 AD invasions made relations with Gilgit. Influenced by it, Mirza Khan Raja Gilgit (1565-1600 AD), embraced Shia religion. In this way, the Shia religion Propagated in this country, which prospered very much though Meer Sham-u-deen Iraqi did not visit this country. But, Preachers from Askardoo used to visit Gilgit often and on. At present, these two faith i.e; Ahl-Sunnat Wal Jamat and Asta Ashree are prevalent in Gilgit. The inhabitants of Nagar are Shias while below Gilgit in Sind valley, Chilas and sovereign states are Ahl-Sunnat Wal Jamat. I have met some highly qualified Molvees among them and it found that these mountain people are more civilized than rural inhabitants of India.

The religious archeological sites of this country include the graveyards of those six saints whose names have been recorded above, or of those saints who has made efforts to propagate Islam. As a result the culture of this country has not advanced as it has been in Balistan. However now the Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir is taking every step to make progress day by day.

Census Tehsil Askardoo (Baltistan)

Year	Male	Female	Total
1873 AD Askardoo, Kargil & Zaskar	29881	28149	58030
1891 AD Tehsil Askardoo	45126	41840	86966
Haramosh	302	293	595
1901 AD Askardoo Regular	302 50024	293 49080	595 99104
Total	50326	49373	99699

Area wise censuses 1911 A.D.

Area	Male	Female	Total
Raondo	4953	4702	9655
Askardoo	11083	10956	22039
Shagr valley	9182	8860	18042
Basha valley	2012	1814	3826
Braldo valley	1522	1613	3135
Parkota	4303	4018	8321
Kars	4361	4477	8838
Khaplu	13276	14057	27333
choraBhat	2535	3071	5606
Total	53227	53568	106795

Tehsil Askardoo

Year	Male	Female	Total
1921 AD	51572	81173	102745
1931 AD	54481	52996	107477

About the Author

A.R. Khan with M.Sc. (Geography) from Aligarh Muslim University; M. A. (Political Science) and B. Ed. From Kashmir University, served Department of Education, J&K. Besides he coordinated National Level Educational Training Programmes (S. D. P.T and S. S. A.). His publications include :

- Kashmir Land & People (First Edition 2003, Revised Edition 2014)

- Geography of India & Kashmir (2003)

- Geography of Kashmir(2013)

- Kashmir Tourist's Paradise (2012)

Besides he translated many Books i.e;

- Tariekh-i-Hassan (4 vol. Set)in English

- Tareikh-i-Jammu (English)

- Tareikh-i-Aqwaam-i-Kashmir (Complete 2 Vol. Set) (English)

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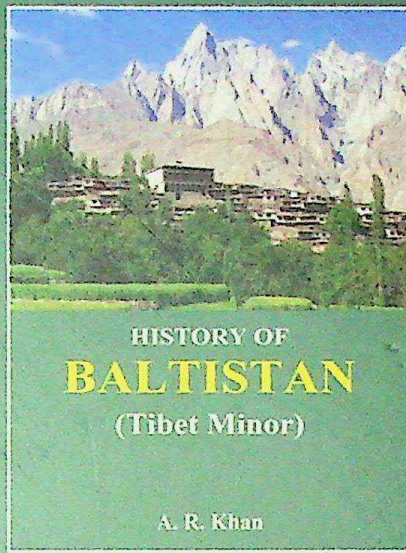
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